

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

THE HISTORY OF THE PRIVATE CALENDAR OF THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HON. F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 1999

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to set forth some of the history behind, as well as describe, the workings of the Private Calendar. I hope this might be of some value to the Members of this House, especially our newer colleagues.

Of the five House Calendars, the Private Calendar is the one to which all private bills are referred. Private bills deal with specific individuals, corporations, institutions, and so forth, as distinguished from public bills which deal with classes only.

Of the 108 laws approved by the First Congress, only 5 were private laws. But their number quickly grew as the wars of the new Republic produced veterans and veterans' widows seeking pensions and as more citizens came to have private claims and demands against the Federal Government. The 49th Congress, 1885 to 1887, the first Congress for which complete workload and output data is available, passed 1,031 private laws, as compared with 434 public laws. At the turn of the century the 56th Congress passed 1,498 private laws and 443 public laws, a better than three to one ratio.

Private bills were referred to the Committee on the Whole House as far back as 1820, and a calendar of private bills was established in 1839. These bills were initially brought before the House by special orders, but the 62nd Congress changed this procedure by its rule XXIV, clause six which provided for the consideration of the Private Calendar in lieu of special orders. This rule was amended in 1932, and then adopted in its present form on March 22, 1935.

A determined effort to reduce the private bill workload of the Congress was made in the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946. Section 131 of that Act banned the introduction or the consideration of four types of private bills: first, those authorizing the payment of money for pensions; second, for personal or property damages for which suit may be brought under the Federal tort claims procedure; third, those authorizing the construction of a bridge across a navigable stream, or fourth, those authorizing the correction of a military or naval record.

This ban afforded some temporary relief but was soon offset by the rising postwar and cold war flood for private immigration bills. The 82nd Congress passed 1,023 private laws, as compared with 594 public laws. The 88th Congress passed 360 Private Laws compared with 666 Public Laws.

Under rule XXIV, clause six, the Private Calendar is called the first and third Tuesday of

each month. The consideration of the Private Calendar bills on the first Tuesday is mandatory unless dispensed with by a two-thirds vote. On the third Tuesday, however, recognition for consideration of the Private Calendar is within the discretion of the Speaker and does not take precedence over other privileged business in the House.

On the first Tuesday of each month, after disposition of business on the Speaker's table for reference only, the Speaker directs the call of the Private Calendar. If a bill called is objected to by two or more Members, it is automatically recommitted to the Committee reporting it. No reservation of objection is entertained. Bills unobjected to are considered in the House in the Committee of the Whole.

On the third Tuesday of each month, the same procedure is followed with the exception that omnibus bills embodying bills previously rejected have preference and are in order regardless of objection.

Such omnibus bills are read by paragraph, and no amendments are entertained except to strike out or reduce amounts or provide limitations. Matters so stricken out shall not be again included in an omnibus bill during that session. Debate is limited to motions allowable under the rule and does not admit motions to strike out the last word or reservation of objections. The rules prohibit the Speaker from recognizing Members for statements or for requests for unanimous consent for debate. Omnibus bills so passed are thereupon resolved in their component bills, which are engrossed separately and disposed of as if passed separately.

Private Calendar bills unfinished on one Tuesday ago over to the next Tuesday on which such bills are in order and are considered before the call of bills subsequently on the calendar. Omnibus bills follow the same procedure and go over to the next Tuesday on which that class of business is again in order. When the previous question is ordered on a Private Calendar bill the bill comes up for disposition on the next legislative day.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to describe to the newer Members the Official Objectors system the House has established to deal with the great volume of private bills.

The Majority Leader and the Minority Leader each appoint three Members to serve as Private Calendar Objectors during a Congress. The Objectors are on the Floor ready to object to any private bill which they feel is objectionable for any reason. Seated near them to provide technical assistance are the majority and minority legislative clerks.

Should any Member have a doubt or questions about a particular private bill, he or she can get assistance from objectors, their clerks, or from the Member who introduced the bill.

The great volume of private bill, and the desire to have an opportunity to study them carefully before they are called on the Private Calendar has caused the six objectors to agree upon certain ground rules. The rules

limit consideration of bills placed on the Private Calendar only shortly before the calendar is called. With this agreement adopted on April 21, 1999, the Members of the Private Calendar Objectors Committee have agreed that during the 106th Congress, they will consider only those bills which have been on the Private Calendar for a period of seven (7) days, excluding the day the bill is reported and the day the calendar is called. Reports must be available to the Objectors for three (3) calendar days.

It is agreed that the majority and minority clerks will not submit to the Objectors any bills which do not meet this requirement.

This policy will be strictly enforced except during the closing days of a session when the House rules are suspended.

This agreement was entered into by: The gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER), the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. COBLE), the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GEKAS), the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BOUCHER), and the gentlelady from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO).

I feel confident that I speak from my colleagues when I request all Members to enable us to give the necessary advance consideration to private bills by not asking that we depart from the above agreement unless absolutely necessary.

TRIBUTE TO FBI NATIONAL ACADEMY GRADUATES

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 1999

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize a young man dedicated to a career of service and protection. On March 26, 1999, Commander Charles Austin Baker of the Commerce City Police Department, Commerce City, CO., graduated from the 196th session of the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Virginia.

Each year the FBI National Academy selects several of our nation's top law enforcement officers to participate in an extensive 11-week training program. Throughout this training, particular emphasis is placed on leadership development. Courses in the program relate to Police management, Behavioral Science, Criminal Law, Law enforcement, Communication Arts, Forensic Science, and Health/Fitness. After Graduation, they expect that these officers will be prepared to assume even greater responsibilities and pass on to others the benefits of their advanced training.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to congratulate Commander Baker and all of the FBI National Academy graduates. With confidence, I look forward to their leadership in America.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

EXPOSING RACISM

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 1999

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, in my continuing efforts to document and expose racism in America, I submit the following articles into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

IN THEIR OWN VOICES, AFRICAN AMERICANS
TELL THE HISTORY OF BIGOTRY

(By Ovetta Sampson)

COLORADO SPRINGS, COLO.—History books paint Colorado Springs as a haven of goodness—a beautiful resort town for the healthy and wealthy tucked at the bottom of Pikes Peak.

In its early years, the city seemed almost ambivalent about race compared with other places around the country. The city didn't have segregated schools or neighborhoods. Its first police force, formed in 1887, included black officer Horace Shelby. By 1898, Colorado Springs had two weekly newspapers for blacks: The Colorado Springs Sun and The Enterprise.

A closer look reveals a piece of Colorado Springs' past that's rarely talked about. It's a piece of history locked in the hearts and minds of many longtime black residents. It shows a Colorado Springs that sanctioned separatism in the city's finest hotels, restaurants and shops.

It tells of a Jim Crow existence ushered in by the Ku Klux Klan. To find such history, you have to look beyond the usual books about the city and into the lives of its ordinary black residents. To get the truest sense of the triumphs and tragedies black people endured here, you have to let them have their say, in their own words.

* * * Kelly Dolphus Stroud was born in 1907, the third of 11 children in one of Colorado Springs' pioneering families.

While the children were still young, their father, Kimbal Stroud, would fill the home with music, playing the French harp or singing. He also told them stories about slavery, biblical adventures and happenings around the world.

In an unpublished book, Dolphus recounts how his dad's after-supper musings gave them the head start they needed for school.

"The Stroud children learned a great deal at the feet of their parents and were well advanced beyond their grade levels upon entering Bristol elementary school. This placed them in the enigmatic position of being the brains of their classes because of their knowledge and the butt of all jokes and embarrassments because of the color-phobia of White America."

Dolphus realized, even in his youth, that being smart didn't exempt blacks from the racist attitudes of others.

"It hurts when one approaches his high school Latin teacher as I did after the first semester of my first year of Latin class to ask why I have been graded 'B' when I had passed every test with 100 percent grade, had done every translation without error and had not been absent or tardy to any class," Dolphus wrote in a letter to his biographer, Inez Hunt, years after he'd left Colorado Springs.

"Thus, I received this curt answer 'I don't give A's to colored kids.'"

Dolphus transferred to another Latin class and "received an A-plus on every Latin semester report thereafter for the next three years."

He was good at masking his pain but angry at the way he was treated: "To be forced to

carry a pocket full of rocks at all times for a measure of self-defense against unprovoked attacks," he wrote in another letter to Hunt. The letter can be found in John Holley's book "Invisible People of the Pikes Peak Region."

"To be unable to eat food inside any of the numerous restaurants in Colorado Springs and Manitou, to be unable to enter any of the city theaters, and to be harassed by Chief Hugh D. Harper and his police to the point where Negro youngsters were constantly under the threat of being kidnapped from the streets and taken to City Hall and forced to dance and clown for the entertainment of the police, were among the minor irritations one faced daily."

Still, Dolphus excelled in college, becoming the first black man at Colorado College to earn membership in the prestigious honor society Phi Beta Kappa.

After graduation, however, he couldn't get a job teaching at his alma mater where he had done so well.

Dolphus thought it was a cruel joke. Although black students here received an equal education long before the 1954 U.S. Supreme Court decision desegregating schools, they ran up against the same wall as in Southern cities that separated them from professional jobs. Dolphus ended up working for his father's company hauling everything from ash to trash because he couldn't find a better job.

"Naturally, the experience at Bristol School, Colorado Springs High School and the general atmosphere of the town left emotional * * * scars upon the Negroes of my generation," he wrote.

Dolphus, like most of his siblings, eventually left Colorado Springs. He taught political science at a black school in Georgia, coached a baseball team and owned his own trucking and storage business in Portland, Ore. He died in 1975 at 68.

The heavy cloud of discrimination that floated throughout the city during Dolphus' youth soon became a whirlwind of prejudice, racism and downright terrorism for blacks.

In Colorado Springs, old-timers say, the Ku Klux Klan reigned with the backing of the city government. A 1921 Gazette clipping tells how the Klan, formed in July of that year, couldn't be shut down or touched by order of the police chief and district attorney. Other clippings tell of the Klan burning crosses on front lawns and even on Pikes Peak.

"The brutality was horrible," said 75-year-old Eula Andrews, who vividly remembers the Klan uprisings from when she was a little girl. "It was so unpleasant. I was frightened, my mother was frightened. The Klan was so strong here."

Andrews may have felt the sting of hatred more than most. She was the daughter of Charles Banks, one of the city's most vocal crusaders against racism.

Bank's suffering was more of a conscious choice. He was born in 1880 to an American Indian mother and English father. With his caramel-colored skin, Banks didn't have to identify himself as black, but because he was raised in a black household, he did.

When he signed up with the military, he joined black men who were forced to fight segregated troops. After contracting malaria in the Philippines, the Spanish-American War veteran retired to Colorado Springs, where he used the city as the battleground to fight a civil rights war.

Andrews said her father's activism could be traced to a face-to-face meeting Banks had with abolitionist Frederick Douglass, who encouraged him.

In Colorado Springs, Banks didn't hesitate to threaten, coerce or cajole the folks of Colorado Springs to go his way.

"I am sending you this communication on behalf of the National Colored Democratic Club of El Paso County protesting against the appointment of Judge Little for assistant district attorney," Banks wrote to another El Paso County judge in July 1932. "There was a time when the colored people of this county put their unmost confidence in him and would have supported him in almost anything he would have asked for. But his attitude toward us during the reign of the Ku Klu (Klan) shattered all confidence beyond a reasonable doubt that he was not our friend. We did everything in our power to ensure your election, and we still have undying confidence in you and believe when you look into this matter further that you will decline to make the appointment of Judge Little."

Bank's activism generated enemies, including the Klan, which burned a cross in his neighbor's yard thinking it was Banks' yard. His activism also helped him get elected as president of the NAACP, a post he held for five years.

As part of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, he was a pistol, packing political clout and a penchant for filing lawsuits against businesses that violated civil rights laws. He sent his children and other relatives to stores, theaters and cafes around town to document the discrimination.

Andrews remembers being sent one time by her father to Walgreens. She sat down in a booth and ordered coffee. When the waitress served her, she poured salt instead of sugar into her cup. "I got so angry," Andrews said.

Her father, through, had given her strict orders not to fight—just pay, leave and document the event.

In an undated speech titled "Will Democracy or Fascism Reign in Colorado?" Banks took the city's government to task.

A five-man committee was appointed by the City Council; they investigated very thoroughly and cleared the police of the brutality charge. Of course, it couldn't be expected that anyone would be appointed to that committee who would make a fair investigation. The committee stated it was not brutality but self-defense when a policeman cruelly beat up a man Well, if self-defense means going into a cell when a man is already behind bars and beating him unconscious, then we will call it self-defense. Of course I realize that sometimes it is necessary for a policeman to use his black jack. But the way they have beaten some of these boys, you would think they had just caught a desperate criminal. . . . The committee also stated the police were sincere and devoted and above average in intelligence. What I want to know (is) who and what are they devoted to besides the chief and the taxpayers' money? Yes, maybe they are above average in intelligence, they have the intelligence to arrest a man, drunk or sober, fine him \$25 to \$250 for drunkenness, disturbing the peace or whatever else they can think of to get the money . . . They have the intelligence to order Negroes out of theaters and to uphold other public facilities and breaking the civil rights law."

Banks' fervor didn't sit well with some of the other civil rights leaders in town, and he was called a Communist. Eventually he was ostracized and ousted as NAACP head, but residents say his legacy will be as a freedom fighter in Colorado Springs. He died in 1976.

In 1942, Camp Carson came to town, and in one day, the city's black population increased 10 percent. By the time Camp Carson turned into a permanent Army base and became Fort Carson in 1954, the military installation was regularly drawing new residents to the city.

Joyce Gilmer came to Colorado Springs by way of a military husband. Her first impressions were outlined in an extensive interview she did in 1994 for the Pioneers Museum's Voices and Visions Oral History project.

"When I first came here, I didn't know any black who worked at a newspaper," she said. "I don't think they had a lot of black professors at Colorado College for sure, and they had a lot fewer black teachers than they have now. They didn't have any black doctor. . . . Now they have several doctors and lawyers and things like that, but not nearly as many as they should have for a town this size."

It certainly wasn't a climate that looked friendly for Gilmer, who soon became an unemployed, divorced mother of three. Yet, she was driven to survive. She went back to school and became the city's first black woman real estate agent.

She was so good she convinced her landlord to put the house she was renting on the market, and it was the first one she sold. She was homeless but successful.

The clouds of Colorado Springs' past were there as Gilmer began her ascension into the realm of selling real estate.

"When I first started in real estate working with men, (I was) the only woman and (the only) black woman," she said in the oral history interview. "They don't even expect you to say anything. When I used to do a closing . . . I would sit through the whole closing, I'd make sure I found a mistake at the beginning, and then I would call their attention to the mistake so we'd all have to start over."

Though Gilmer was never exposed to it personally, she talked about the existence of red-lining, the practice of showing houses only in certain neighborhoods to people of color while steering white people to other neighborhoods.

"You were not allowed to point out a neighborhood that you couldn't go into," she said. "I guess white people knew more about that than I did because they're not going to tell a black person these areas they don't want you to live in or sell in. . . . But it was beginning to be the topic of conversation at meetings and things like that, that this was not legal and you had better not be caught doing it."

Her personal triumphs—earning a degree, starting her own business, becoming one of the most successful real estate agents in the city—shows just how much the city has changed.

While many old-timers say racism in Colorado Springs is still just below the surface, stories such as Gilmer's point toward fairness.

Last year, signs were erected to identify the newly named Martin Luther King Jr. bypass. The NAACP also celebrated its 10th annual Juneteenth festival—a community party celebrating freedom—on the grounds of Colorado College. Also, the city is in its second round of talks as part of a Community Conversation on Race.

The transformation is by no means complete, but residents who know this city's history say there have been changes.

"I think this city has made a 180-degree turn," said Franklin Macon, grandson of Charles Banks and a Springs native. "No matter what people say, it's gotten so much better."

TWIN BROTHERS CHARGED WITH CONSPIRING TO INCITE RACE WAR

RICHMOND, VA. (AP).—A grand jury has indicted twin brothers on charges of conspiring to incite a race war between black's and whites.

Kevin and Calvin Hill, who allegedly belong to a white supremacist group, were in-

dicted Monday in the Richmond suburb of Henrico County on charges of "conspiracy to incite one race to insurrection against the other race." They were released on bond pending a March 25 hearing in Circuit Court.

The brothers, 28, were indicted twice earlier this year—on Feb. 4 and Feb. 25—on various drug distribution and conspiracy charges. They also face an abduction charge.

The brothers "prominently displayed Nazi paraphernalia" and "read passages from their white supremacy 'Bible'" to people who came to them to buy marijuana, according to a search warrant affidavit filed in the case.

Court papers indicated the brothers possessed a document that "described and espoused the burning of synagogues and violence against people based upon race or religion."

Police found numerous items related to the white supremacy movement in searches of the brothers' residences in Henrico County and Bluefield, W.Va., court records indicate.

The items included Nazi flags, posters of Adolf Hitler, clothing with Nazi slogans, World War II Nazi paraphernalia, applications to join the Ku Klux Klan and pamphlets containing racist slogans, the records indicate.

Police believe the Hill brothers moved to the Richmond area from West Virginia shortly before 1995.

The organization that the man allegedly belong to was identified in the court documents as "Christian Identity."

Among several other suspects who were indicted on drug charges related to the Hills was Sylvester J. Carrington, 27, of Chesterfield County. Police said the brothers recruited Carrington, who is black, as a drug supplier.

"Basically it was just a money thing," said narcotics investigator Michael J. Barron. ". . . They didn't care for him too much, but it was business."

Police seized about 5 pounds of marijuana, 25 to 50 doses of LSD, more than 20 drug pipes, several knives, 15 guns, ammunition and military flak jackets in the Richmond area and West Virginia. The weapons included .30-.30 rifles with scopes, AR-15 assault-style rifles and Tec 9 semiautomatic pistols.

Police said the 2-year investigation is ongoing.

BLACK AG DEPARTMENT MANAGERS PURSUE DISCRIMINATION COMPLAINT

WASHINGTON (AP).—Black managers working for the Agriculture Department are moving forward with a complaint that accuses the agency of denying them promotions.

The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission has scheduled an April 12 hearing on the class action complaint, which alleges that more than 300 black managers at the department's Farm Service Agency were discriminated against.

The Farm Service Agency, which administers loans and credit, also had been cited by black farmers in a lawsuit that resulted in a multimillion-dollar settlement—currently under review by a federal judge.

"It's not surprising that the Farm Service Agency was discriminating against the black farmers when they have for years systematically excluded African-Americans from policy-making positions in the upper levels of agency management," said lead attorney Joseph D. Gebhardt.

The complaint, which was filed in February 1997, requests a promotion for each member of the class along with appropriate back pay and benefits.

Tom Amontree, a spokesman for Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman, said the

agency has been "aggressively dealing with the backlog of employee civil rights complaints." In the past two years, the agency has resolved three-fourths of such outstanding complaints, he said.

"Secretary Glickman will not tolerate acts of discrimination at this department," Amontree said. "Anyone found doing so will be dealt with appropriately."

The action before the EEOC is just one of two under way by black department employees. Another group is meeting with attorneys to pursue a complaint on behalf of all black employees within the agency, organizers said.

"Obviously the only thing the department is going to respond to is across-the-board action," said Lawrence Lucas, president of the USDA Coalition of Minority Employees and an organizer of the effort. "Employees who have been in the system and seen the discrimination have decided the only way they can get to the systemic nature and the culture of racism is through a class action."

REMEMBERING THE 85TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. STEPHEN HORN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 1999

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representatives RADANOVICH and BONIOR for their work to introduce a resolution this week to ensure that this nation continues to play an active role in protecting the memory of the Armenian Genocide that began 85 years ago. As we so unfortunately see again in Kosovo today, documenting the horrors of genocide—or "ethnic cleansing" as it is called in some circles—is vital if we are to ever stop such actions from occurring.

The resolution that is being introduced calls upon the President to collect and house all relevant U.S. records relating to the Armenian Genocide and provide them to Congress, the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, and the Armenian Genocide Museum in Yerevan, Armenia. It is necessary to do this because there are many who live in denial. Sadly, the Government of Turkey continues to deny what occurred at the beginning of this century, just as there are too many people who still deny the Jewish Holocaust where six million people were killed. Two million Cambodians were killed in the 1970s–1980s by Pol Pot and his communist thugs and ideologues. Even now in the Balkans there must be solid evidence of violence against the innocent civilians for no other reason than their ethnic identification.

No one can take for granted the unexplainable ability of some people to look clearly at facts and still deny its very existence. Each year, Members of Congress join the world commemoration of the Armenian Genocide because it must not be forgotten. Time, distance, and current events frequently cloud the past and can reduce horrific events to little more than a footnote in history. The Armenian Genocide is not a footnote. More than 1.5 million Armenians were killed and the Genocide left deep scars upon those who survived. Those survivors carried their memories with them to my home state of California and the many other places they settled. Still, memories cannot fight those who would deny this tragedy.

Documenting the horrors of the Genocide cannot stop those who would deny it, any more than the extensive documentation of the Holocaust have stopped individuals from denying that abominable period. However, we cannot begin the fight against ignorance if we do not preserve the record of these crimes. The Armenian Genocide marked the beginning of a barbaric practice in the Twentieth Century. By remembering it we can help prevent future actions and punish the guilty in the future.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM IS LONG OVERDUE—THE SAN MATEO COUNTY TIMES URGES ACTION TO STRENGTHEN OUR DEMOCRACY

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 1999

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, no issue affects the future of our democratic political system to a greater extent than does campaign finance reform. The infusion of unregulated dollars to political parties and officeholders has reached record levels in the past few years, making elections more and more the province of wealthy candidates and special interests. This development can only serve to increase cynicism and limit political participation among our nation's individual citizens. I strongly believe that we have a civic duty to take action to reverse this dangerous trend.

For this reason, Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be an original co-sponsor of H.R. 417, the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act of 1999. I have also signed the discharge petition now pending before the House, in order to bring this important legislation up for consideration despite the opposition of some of the leaders of this body. This legislation, known popularly as the Shays-Meehan campaign finance reform bill, unites a broad coalition of Democrats and Republicans who share the conviction that we must act firmly and swiftly to prevent elections from becoming out-of-control auctions.

H.R. 417 would ban unregulated "soft money" contributions to national and state political parties, abolishing once and for all this unfortunate loophole. It would also impose restrictions on the broadcast of so-called "independent expenditure" issue ads by third parties, add requirements for the full disclosure of campaign contributions, limit political party assistance to wealthy candidates who spend millions of dollars of their own personal fortunes on political campaigns, and institute several other vital improvements to our method of electing congressional officeholders.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation and in signing the discharge petition that is necessary to bring it before the House of Representatives.

On April 16, 1999, the highly-respected San Mateo County Times newspaper in San Mateo, California, published a thoughtful editorial on this important issue entitled "Campaign Finance Reform Is Long Overdue." Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to read this excellent editorial and consider the consequences of failing to defend the integrity of our system of campaigns and elections. I ask that this editorial be placed in the RECORD.

[From the San Mateo County Times, Apr. 16, 1999]

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM IS LONG OVERDUE

The majority of Americans favors campaign finance reform, which remains a crucial issue even if its breathing often labored. Paradoxically, few legislators appear to like reform well enough to see it through to passage. And some large corporations, which endorse the need for reform, still play by the old rules.

Speaker of the House Dennis Hastert, R-Ill., promised to work in a bipartisan manner on issue of concern to the average American, but he has told the press that campaign finance reform is not a legislative priority. The House will concentrate instead on what he calls the "really important issues," including Social Security, health care, tax policy and education. These are undoubtedly key issues on the legislative agenda, but the back-burner approach to the bipartisan Shays-Meehan campaign finance reform bill is irritating the American public.

"The Washington influence money game will continue and will distort the legislative policy on these very issues," reports Common Cause, which lobbies for tighter campaign finance rules. "The Speaker's failure to understand the need for reform as a prerequisite to congressional action on these important issues is to deny how Washington really works."

The passage of Shays-Meehan would mean the end of the corrupt soft-money system that permits wealthy individuals, labor unions and corporations to give millions of dollars in unregulated campaign contributions to the political parties to buy influence and access in Congress and the White House. The bill would also require special-interest groups to pay for campaign advertisements masquerading as impartial "issue discussions" with money raised according to federal campaign finance laws.

A federal economic panel—composed of businessmen—recently released a report recommending that soft money should be outlawed. "The public cannot help but believe that these donors enjoy special influence and receive special favors," the report said. "The suspicion of corruption deepens public cynicism and diminishes public confidence in government. "More important, these activities raise the likelihood of actual corruption."

The panel co-chairman, who is also the chairman and chief executive of his firm, concluded at a news conference. "Bad government is bad business." He later told a reporter: "Until I understood the depth of the problem, I was like a lot of Americans: I don't think I cared too much." This executive's accounting and consulting firm, as reported in The New York Times, was quick to repudiate its own leader by issuing a statement saying the chairman's opinions were "his personal views and do not necessarily represent the views" of his company.

A review of Election Commission records shows that three large American corporations, which announced they would swear off soft money donations in 1997, have fallen off the wagon. Only the Monsanto Company, which donated \$75,000 in 1995 and '96, has given no soft money since then.

Speaker Hastert has failed to schedule Shays-Meehan for floor action this spring despite the passage of an earlier bill in the House. A later filibuster in the Senate killed it. We urge prompt attention and passage of Shays-Meehan as we have urged in the past. A campaign finance reform law is needed right now.

Why must the public always assume the obligation to wake up its own elected officials?

APRIL IS OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY MONTH

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 1999

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, we've all heard it said that "when you've got your health, you've got everything." we also know how hard it is to stay healthy as we get older. One profession that helps people deal with the problems of aging is occupational therapy. Because April is Occupational Therapy Month, I would like to recognize the many fine practitioners of this field of health care who live and work in my district and across the nation.

Occupational therapy helps people recover their "skills for the job of living" so they can have independent, fulfilling lives. It's the occupational therapist who shows those afflicted with arthritis new techniques of how to shop and care for their homes and gardens in order to continue the life to which they are accustomed.

It is the occupational therapist who shows those afflicted by a stroke how to dress and bathe and hold a cup again, even though limited in strength, in order to care for their own needs, instead of having to rely on others for the basic necessities of daily life.

The proven efficacy of occupational therapy as a health treatment for older persons has recently been documented in the Journal of the American Medical Association. Millions more Americans will personally be made aware of the invaluable role that occupational therapists play in their own lives when the huge baby boom generation begins to retire in the next 10 years. It is estimated that there will be more Americans over age 85 than under 5!

I salute the many dedicated occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants for the fine jobs they do each and every day in helping older Americans live more productive and rewarding lives.

LEGISLATION TO IMPROVE MILITARY AIRFIELD SAFETY

HON. JAMES A. TRAFICANT, JR.

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 1999

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, earlier today I introduced legislation to authorize the U.S. military to test and evaluate Mobile Expeditionary Accurate Night Vision Compatible Portable Airfield Lighting Systems (MEANPALS). This legislation will allow all branches of the U.S. military to benefit from enhanced vision technologies, which have a proven track record of dramatically improving airfield visibility under any weather conditions.

MEANPALS is a mobile airfield lighting system that provides all the necessary elements to establish a 10,000 foot runway on improved or unimproved airfield landing sites. It utilizes enhanced vision technologies, including laser guidance systems. It provides accurate runway centerline lineup cues along with glide-path lineup information during landing approach to the airfield. My bill authorizes \$1.3 million for the U.S. Army to research, develop, test, and evaluate two MEANPALS at one location that serves both fixed wing and rotor

aircraft; \$650,000 for the U.S. Marine Corps to evaluate one MEANPALS for use by Marine aircraft, as well as amphibious landing craft and the direction of ground vehicles; and \$1.95 million for the Air Force Reserve or Air National Guard to evaluate MEANPALS at three different locations for use as assault runways and for large commercial airport use.

Enhanced vision technologies such as laser guidance systems have been fully tested and deployed by some branches of the U.S. military, including the U.S. Navy. The technology has proven itself under a myriad of conditions. Enhanced vision technologies represent a dramatic breakthrough in improving flight crew situational awareness during airplane landings—especially in low visibility situations. Laser guidance systems provide pilots with a visual navigation flight path from as far as 20 miles from the runway, with the precision of an advanced instrument landing system. Best of all, the installation of laser guidance and cold cathode technologies to replace or enhance conventional landing light systems will require no additional aircraft equipment. The combination of enhanced vision technologies with the latest ground proximity warning systems will dramatically reduce the number of controlled flight into terrain accidents.

As noted above, the U.S. Navy has deployed enhanced vision technologies on its aircraft carriers. Here's what some Navy pilots had to say about laser guidance systems:

There's no guessing involved. It's light years ahead of what we have.

Response to simple color change puts you on line as far out as 20 miles.

I think the laser line-up is the greatest technical improvement for landing at night ever. It is invaluable for safety, comfort, and efficiency when landing.

I really like the system. It will prove especially valuable on days when weather conditions are a factor in approaches.

Here's what the head of the U.S. Park Police had to say about tests the Park Police helicopter units conducted last year:

The Cold Cathode heliport lights . . . have received very favorable comments by our pilots . . . They have reported that their ability to see and recognize these lights was greatly enhanced compared to the existing incandescent lights . . . In some cases my pilots reported that they could be seen twice as far away compared to the incandescent lighting. During the evaluation period we had to replace all of the incandescent lighting several times while only one of the Cold Cathode lights burned out.

These technologies, especially laser guidance systems and cold cathode lights, have been extensively tested. They are also cheaper to maintain than conventional lighting. For example, cold cathode lights have a lifetime cost of only 20 percent of that of incandescent lights.

My legislation will allow all branches of the U.S. military to benefit from this exciting technology. Mr. Speaker, the deployment of MEANPALS by the Army, Marines and Air Force will save lives and save money. I urge all Members to support this bill.

TRIBUTE TO FBI NATIONAL ACADEMY GRADUATES

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 1999

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize a young man dedicated to a career of service and protection. On March 26, 1999, Captain Kenneth Duane Donahue of the Greeley Police Department, Greeley, CO., graduated from the 196th session of the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Virginia.

Each year the FBI National Academy selects several of our nation's top law enforcement officers to participate in an extensive 11-week training program. Throughout this training, particular emphasis is placed on leadership development. Courses in the program relate to Police management, Behavioral Science, Criminal Law, Law enforcement Communication Arts, Forensic Science, and Health/Fitness. After Graduation, they expect that these officers will be prepared to assume even greater responsibilities and pass on to others the benefits of their advanced training.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to congratulate Captain Donahue and all of the FBI National Academy graduates. With confidence, I look forward to their leadership in America.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN R. KASICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 1999

Mr. KASICH. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, April 20, 1999, I was unable to record a vote by electronic device on rollcall No. 92, a bill to authorize the President to award a gold medal on behalf of Congress to Rosa Parks in recognition of her contributions to the nation. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall No. 92.

Mrs. Parks is not only a pioneer in the struggle for racial equality, she is an example of the courage and determination we all need to overcome adversity. Mrs. Parks is an inspiring symbol to all Americans and is much deserving of the Congressional Gold Medal. I am proud to be a cosponsor of Congresswoman Carson's bill, H.R. 573, and look forward to Rosa Parks receiving this long-overdue honor.

HONORING JESUS SAUCEDO

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 1999

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to bring to the attention of my colleagues an extraordinary man and friend who retired as the Director of the Guadalupe Community Center on December 31, 1998.

After a decade of traveling between Mexico and various states under the Bracero program Señor Jesus Saucedo first came to Guadalupe, California in 1961. He was joined five years later by his wife Refugia and their children. Once settled in the community, it didn't

take long for Señor Saucedo to become a leader in the fight for justice and equality.

In 1969 he became a member and organizer of the United Farm Workers. He began working with businesses to establish training programs for local farm workers and other residents to diversify their skills and expand their opportunities. To this end, he developed his own job training programs and citizenship workshops and made these resources open to whoever needed them.

Mr. Speaker, I am inspired by Señor Saucedo's leadership and commitment to his community. Perhaps his most important accomplishment is his work with the Guadalupe Community Health Clinic. The Clinic has become the centerpiece for the community providing means to the needy, transportation options for the public, educational and recreational resources, and referrals of all kinds for those in need of advice. The impact of his service and vision will never be forgotten by the community of Guadalupe.

Mr. Speaker, I was honored to join the City of Guadalupe this past weekend in celebrating the accomplishments of Señor Jesus Saucedo. He is a man who has devoted his life to community service and I thank him for all he has done through the years.

HONORING DENIS AND CAROLYN RIBORDY

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 1999

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to commend two of Northwest Indiana's most distinguished citizens, Denis and Carolyn Ribordy of Ogden Dunes, Indiana. Denis and Carolyn were honored for their exemplary and dedicated service to our community on April 7, 1999. Their praiseworthy efforts were recognized at the Center for Visual and Performing Arts as they received the 1999 Distinguished Citizen's Award, sponsored by the Calumet Council of Boy Scouts of America. The Distinguished Citizen's Award is given to worthy recipients who demonstrate their dedication and outstanding service to the community.

Denis and Carolyn Ribordy, longtime residents of Northwest Indiana, hale from East Chicago and Indianapolis, respectively. After both graduated from Butler University College of Pharmacy, they returned to Northwest Indiana, and have made our area their permanent home. In 1955, the Ribordy's opened their own pharmacy, Ribordy Drugs, Incorporated. Denis Ribordy served as the founder and President of the 26-store retail drug chain in Northwest Indiana until Ribordy Drugs was sold to Walgreens in 1985.

While the Ribordys have dedicated considerable time and energy to their work, they have always made an extra effort to give to the community. Denis is very involved in several organizations including: Chicago Motor Club, Hunter Corporation, Lake County Easter Seal Society for Crippled Children and Adults, Incorporated, Mercantile National Bank, Northern Indiana Public Service Company, Northwest Indiana Forum, and Trade Winds Rehabilitation Center, Incorporated. Additionally, he serves as a trustee for Butler University and

Methodist Hospital of Gary, Indiana. Carolyn serves as an elder at the Ogden Dunes Presbyterian Church and was a past recipient of the Robert Anderson Award for Exceptional Commitment to Community Service.

Though the Ribordys are dedicated to their career and community, they have never limited their time and love for their family. The Ribordys have raised four children; Cheryl, 41; Scott, 39; Nancy, 36; and Mark, 33, of whom they are immensely proud.

Mr. Speaker I ask that you and my distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating Denis and Carolyn Ribordy for receiving the 1999 Distinguished Citizen's Award. Their dedicated service to Northwest Indiana is commendable and admirable. Indiana's First Congressional District is proud to count two such dedicated, conscientious citizens, Denis and Carolyn Ribordy, among its residents.

HONORING RUBY LEE JOSEPH

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 1999

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Ruby Lee Joseph, who died at the age of 67, on her birthday, June 20, 1998. Ruby Lee died surrounded by the people she loved most, her family. She was a role model, a community leader, and a dedicated mother and grandmother.

Ms. Joseph was born and raised in Houston, Texas. She graduated from Jack Yates High School in 1949. Later she was married to Leroy Joseph, and together they had seven children. They raised their children with love and a strong sense of values, and all seven successfully graduated from college.

Ruby Lee extended her familial bonds beyond those who were her blood. Throughout the community she was affectionately known as "Grann" or "Ms. Ruby". She leaves behind numerous "adopted" children and friends who will cherish her memory.

Ms. Ruby was well-known in the community for her service at East Bethel Missionary Baptist Church and the Blue Triangle YWCA. She touched many lives, friends and strangers alike. She taught her family and friends to live by the Golden Rule. She instilled in her children that you should help others who needed it and to forgive others selflessly. Ruby Lee not only taught these valuable lessons, but exhibited them in her everyday life.

Ruby Lee is preceded in death by her husband, parents, granddaughter Jasmine Joseph, and great granddaughter Tatiyana Garner.

She leaves behind her children: Paula Sharleen and husband Ronald Crawford; Jeffrey Leon, Gerald Wayne and wife Marjorie; Gregory Allen and wife Debra; Iona Pearl, Reuben Lawrence and wife Deidre; Sharon Ann and husband Aaron Hughes; grandchildren: Gregory Wayne, Consuela and husband David Garner; Marcus, Antrice, Yolande, Candace, Crystal, Corey, Courtney, Justin, Christian, Jared, Gregory II, Reuben II, Reginald, and Aaron Alexander, Audrey and Denesa; her great grandchildren: Demontray, Ariel, A'reona and Danté. She also leaves her sister Kathleen Sander and husband Lonnie; her brother Wayne Anderson and wife Rosa-

mond; her uncle Horace Mann Moore; her cousin Helen Jones; her stepmother Ruth Allen; her aunt Maggie Moore; three brothers-in-law Arthur, Ellis and Earl Joseph, and numerous "adopted" children, grandchildren and a host of relatives and friends.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all the Members of the House to join me in paying tribute to the life of Ruby Lee Joseph. She touched our lives and our hearts, and she will be greatly missed.

TRIBUTE TO GARTH REEVES

HON. CARRIE P. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 1999

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to pay tribute to an outstanding citizen of Florida's 17th Congressional District, Garth Reeves. I am recognizing Garth Reeves for receiving the lifetime achievement award from the Florida's black business investment board. Garth is a renowned recipient who is surely deserving of such a prestigious award.

Garth comes from four generations of Reeves who have managed the Miami Times, which was founded by his father, Mr. Henry E.S. Reeves, in 1923.

It is clear why Garth has been honored for this important award. He has been a reporter, editor, publisher, banker, entrepreneur, community activist and humanitarian in the Miami area who has made outstanding contributions to our community. Currently, Garth serves as publisher emeritus of the Miami Times.

The Miami Times has been instrumental in covering the human dimension of African American culture. The Reeves family has made a successful effort in establishing an African American newspaper even before Ebony and Jet Magazine. Over the years, the Miami Times has covered such outstanding African Americans as Phyllis Wheatley, Richard Allen, Florida's very own Athalie "Mama" Range, the Honorable Joe Lang Kershaw and Gwen Sawyer Cherry.

The dreams, aspirations and achievements of the African American community were also recorded in the Miami Times. Garth has made the Miami Times the voice and over the years, the written history of the African American community.

The Miami Times is the pre-eminent newspaper serving the African American community in all of Florida. It became one of the first black newspapers in America to exchange editorials, letters, and articles with the Miami Jewish Tribune. A few years later, the Miami Times began exchanging opinion pieces with one of America's great Spanish-language weeklies, the *Diario Las Americas*. The Miami Jewish Tribune and the *Diario Las Americas* have worked closely with the Miami Times to close what was seen as a growing chasm between the communities.

Garth Reeves' life has been dedicated to the achievement of excellence and service to humankind. For these reasons, I ask my colleagues to please join me in acknowledging a great American and Floridian, Mr. Garth Reeves, Sr.

IN HONOR OF PULITZER PRIZE
WINNER DAVID HORSEY

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 1999

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and bring the attention of this body to the Nation's outstanding award for journalism, which was given recently to Mr. David Horsey, editorial-page cartoonist for the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*.

In winning the Pulitzer Prize for editorial cartooning, Mr. Horsey has capped what is turning out to be a remarkable career in the press.

I have known and appreciated Mr. Horsey's work for more than 20 years since his graduation from the University of Washington and career at several of the State's daily newspapers, before joining the P-I staff in 1979.

As you well know, the job of an editorial cartoonist is not to make politicians feel good about themselves, and I have been a target of Mr. Horsey's journalism from time to time. But he also has the integrity to honor as well as puncture political stands, and cartoons of both types hang on the walls of my offices in Seattle and Washington, DC.

The Pulitzer might be the latest and most-recognized, but it hardly is the first journalistic honor to come David's way.

He was the National Press Foundation's 1998 Berryman Cartoonist of the Year and won first place in the Society of Professional Journalists' 1996 and 1997 competition for editorial cartooning in the Pacific Northwest. He'd already won 10 SPJ regional awards for cartooning and reporting. He won the 1994 award for Best of the West journalism competition and was the first cartoonist to win the Environmental Media Award.

David Horsey does more than draw. He was editor of his college newspaper and has worked as a reporter as well as a cartoonist. In 1986, as a Rotary Foundation Scholar, Mr. Horsey earned a master's degree in international relations from the University of Kent, at Canterbury, England. In 1993, he was one of only 25 Americans chosen to take part in the European Community Visitorship Program in Brussels.

He's also a busy husband and parent and is at work on his first novel.

Please join me today in honoring this outstanding member of Washington State's public community.

ERIC LAW HONORED FOR BRAVERY

HON. DAVID D. PHELPS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 1999

Mr. PHELPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and honor Eric Law, a very brave and courageous young man. Last summer, while Eric and his family were at a hotel in Peoria, Eric noticed a girl who was at the bottom of the hotel pool, and appeared to be in trouble. Taking the initiative, Eric jumped into the pool and brought the girl to the surface. Eric was assisted in efforts to save the life of this

young girl by Mitch Jones, who helped drag the girl out of the pool and Cathy Highley, who performed CPR on the girl and restarted her breathing. On the morning of April 19th the Macon County Safe Kids Committee awarded Eric their safety Award for his bravery at Mt. Zion Jr. High School, where Eric is a student in the seventh grade.

Mr. Speaker, with the recent tragedy at a high school in Colorado, where we have all witnessed the potential destructiveness of children, it is refreshing and uplifting for me to address the Congress with Eric's story. I invite all of my colleagues to join me in wishing the best of luck to Eric in the future and thanking him for his undaunted act.

HONORING GRACE N. MITCHELL

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 1999

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to bring to the attention of my colleagues the retirement of an extraordinary community leader, Dr. Grace N. Mitchell, the President of San Luis Obispo's Cuesta College.

Grace has spent her 10-year tenure as President of Cuesta College making the college shine, not only in the eyes of its students and faculty but also in the eyes of the community. Under Grace's magnificent leadership, Cuesta College earned the first-ever "Best-in-Class" California Quality Eureka Award, presented by the California Council for Quality and Service.

Grace's 35-year career has been dedicated to excellence in higher education as well as outstanding community activism. She has worked as a vice chancellor, a vice president, an assistant superintendent, dean, counselor, and advisor to many community colleges throughout California. In 1995 she was named Citizen of the Year by the San Luis Obispo Chamber of Commerce. She has also been recognized for her work with the Foundation for Community Design, the SLO County Economic Advisory Committee and UCSB Economic Forecast Project, and a host of other community and professional organizations.

Mr. Speaker, Grace N. Mitchell's dedication to the people with whom she works and lives is vast and unrelenting. She has proven herself to be a valuable asset to our community. I know I speak for many when I say that her commitment and vision for Cuesta College will surely be missed upon her retirement. I congratulate Grace on 35 years of service to her community and wish her all the best as she embarks on a new life journey.

HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN
CHINA'S XINJIANG REGION: AM-
NESTY INTERNATIONAL REPORT
DOCUMENTS SERIOUS ABUSES

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 1999

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to the attention of our Colleagues an outstanding but deeply troubling report by Am-

nesty International which was released by Amnesty at a press conference earlier today sponsored by the Congressional Human Rights Caucus.

The report—entitled "People's Republic of China: Gross Violations of Human Rights in the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region"—documents in an unprecedented fashion the outrageous human rights violations in this autonomous region of China, which borders several Central Asian countries. These egregious human rights violations are committed primarily against the Uighurs, the majority ethnic group among the predominantly Muslim local population.

The appalling human rights violations, which are documented and verified for the first time by a leading international human rights organization, include a pattern of arbitrary and summary executions, torture, arbitrary detention and unjust political trials. For the first time, the Amnesty report was able to document 210 death sentences and 190 executions of political prisoners in this region. In addition, the report also documents the cases of 200 political prisoners and prisoners of conscience who were arrested during the 1990s and are still believed to be imprisoned.

Amnesty International further highlights the outrageous use of particular torture techniques which are sexual in nature, and not known to be used in other areas of the People's Republic. These forms of torture include the insertion of horsehair into the penis, as well as wires with small spikes.

Mr. Speaker, this important report further documents the dismal human rights record of the People's Republic of China. On Friday, the international community has an opportunity to take a stand against these despicable human rights practices in China, when the U.S.-sponsored resolution condemning the PRC for its human rights violations comes up for a vote at the UN Human Rights Commission. In the face of such unspeakable atrocities which are documented in the Amnesty report, I urge nations who are friends and allies of the United States to support the strong and principled stand for human rights resolution which the United States had introduced.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that the executive summary of the Amnesty International report on human rights violations in the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region be placed in the RECORD, and I urge my colleagues in the Congress to give thoughtful attention to its documentation of the deplorable human rights record of China.

[From Amnesty International, April 1999]

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA—GROSS VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE XINJIANG UIGHUR AUTONOMOUS REGION

In a new 92-page report, Amnesty International documents a pattern of gross violations of human rights in the Uighur Autonomous Region of Xinjiang (XUAR), one of the five autonomous regions of the People's Republic of China (RPC), which borders several Central Asian countries.

These violations include arbitrary and summary executions, torture, arbitrary detention, and unfair political trials. The main victims of these abuses are the Uighurs, the majority ethnic group among the predominantly Muslim local population in the region.

Thousands of people have been arbitrarily detained in the XUAR over the past few years and arbitrary arrests continue. Thou-

sands of political prisoners, arrested at various times during the 1990s, are reported to remain imprisoned, some have been sentenced to long prison terms after unfair trials, others still detained without charge or trial after months or years in jail. Many of those detained are reported to have been tortured, some with particularly cruel methods which, to Amnesty International's knowledge, are not being used elsewhere in the PRC. Scores of Uighur political prisoners have been sentenced to death and executed in the past two years. Others are alleged to have been killed by the security forces in circumstances which appear to constitute extra-judicial executions.

These gross violations of human rights are occurring amidst growing ethnic unrest. With a massive influx of ethnic Chinese (or Han) in the XUAR since 1949, the indigenous population has felt increasingly marginalised in what they regard as their ancestral land. Ethnic discontent has also been fuelled by government policies, unemployment, discrimination, unequal economic opportunities, and curbs on fundamental freedoms, including freedom of religion.

Over the past ten years the local ethnic population has witnessed a steady erosion of its social, economic and cultural rights. Economic development in the region has largely bypassed the local ethnic population and benefited mainly Han Chinese. Racial discrimination is reported to be common and unemployment is high among Uighurs. Despite that, the influx of Han migrant workers has considerably increased in recent years.

These trends have exacerbated long-standing ethnic tensions between Uighurs and Han Chinese in the region, and contributed to the escalation of violence. A growing number of violent incidents have been reported in the region in recent years, including attacks on government officials and offices, and the planting and detonation of bombs. Some of these incidents have been carried out by underground opposition groups seeking independence from China.

Aspirations towards independence have their roots in both the distant past and recent history. During the 1930s and 1940s, two independent Republics of Eastern Turkestan were formed successively in Kashgar (1933) and Ili (1944) as attempts to resist Chinese rule. Both republics were short-lived, but they have continued to inspire nationalist oppositions since 1949, particularly among the Uighurs. Over the years, various opposition groups militating for Eastern Turkestan's independence were formed clandestinely in the XUAR—some reportedly supported by exiled nationalist groups established among the Uighur diaspora in various countries. Some of these groups have resorted to violence.

Since 1990, the Chinese authorities' fears of organised political opposition in the XUAR appear to have been heightened by the emergence of independent Central Asian states which followed the breakup of the Soviet Union, and the rise of Islamic movements as well as protracted conflicts in other neighbouring countries. This has led to a reversal of the relatively liberal policies implemented in the region during the 1980s, notably concerning religion.

While the "open door" policy led to a religious revival in the XUAR during the 1980s, since 1990 the government has reverted to restrictive policies amidst fears that Islam might provide a rallying point for ethnic nationalism and that Islamic movements abroad might inspire young Uighurs. Many mosques and Koranic schools have been closed down in the region and religious leaders who are deemed to be too independent or

"subversive" have been dismissed or arrested. Muslims working in government offices and other official institutions are prohibited from practising their religion, failing which they lose their jobs.

In the past few years, the Chinese government has responded with harsh repression to growing unrest in the region, blaming it on a "small number" of "separatists", "terrorists" and "religious extremists" accused of having links with "foreign hostile forces" whose aim is to "split the motherland". Since 1996, the government has launched an extensive campaign against "ethnic separatists", imposing new restrictions on religious and cultural rights, and resorting increasingly to executions, show trials and arbitrary detention to silence real and suspected opponents.

Amnesty International recognizes the state's duty to take the measures necessary to maintain law and order, but even in situations of internal strife, this must be exercised within the limits set by international human rights law. Killings by members of armed opposition groups can never provide justification for government forces to deliberately kill defenceless people or torture prisoners in police custody.

Furthermore, the official reports about "separatists and terrorists" in the XUAR obscure a more complex reality in which many people who are not involved in violence have become victims of human rights violations. Over the years, Uighurs' attempts to air their views or grievances and peacefully exercise their most fundamental human rights have been met with repression.

Amnesty International is calling on the Chinese government to establish a special commission to investigate human rights violations and economic social and cultural needs in the region, to suggest remedial measures and provide a forum for individuals and groups to voice their grievances. It is also calling on the authorities to take immediate measures to stop the gross violations of human rights occurring in the region.

ARBITRARY DETENTION AND IMPRISONMENT

Thousands of people have been arbitrarily detained in the XUAR over the past few years. Suspected Uighur "separatists", nationalist sympathisers and people taking part in Koranic classes or religious groups have been particularly targeted. Repression increased in 1997 following protests by Uighurs on 5 and 6 February that year in the city of Gulja (Yining), located near the border with Kazakstan in the west of the XUAR. Between 3,000 and 5,000 people are believed to have been detained in Gulja during the two weeks which followed the protests. Many of them were tortured. Some were released after being held without charge for weeks or months. Others have remained in detention. Arbitrary arrests have continued since then, both in Gulja and elsewhere in the region.

One of those detained for involvement in the February 97 protests in Gulja is Abdulhelil, a 28 year-old businessman in the city, married with three children. He was arrested on 5 February 1997 for taking part in a peaceful demonstration calling for religious freedom and equal treatment for Uighurs. Abdulhelil was the main leader of the "meshreps", a traditional form of social gathering revived by members of the Uighur community in Gulja in 1994 in order to tackle social problems, particularly drug addiction which had become widespread among unemployed young Uighurs. The meetings of the meshreps were tolerated by the authorities for a few months. They were popular and rapidly spread to other areas. As the number of participants grew, however, the authorities banned the meshreps in 1995. Abdulhelil was detained for a short period at that time.

Following his re-arrest on 5 February 1997, he was reportedly severely tortured in detention. As of late 1998, his family had not received any official notification about the charges against him or his place of detention. He is not known to have been charged or tried. Amnesty International believes that Abdulhelil is arbitrarily detained for the peaceful exercise of his fundamental human rights, in violation of international standards, and that he should be released immediately and unconditionally.

Among many others arbitrarily imprisoned in the XUAR is Abidjan Obulkasim, one of four students from Kashgar who were arrested in early 1995 and subsequently sentenced to prison terms ranging from 5 to 15 years for having discussed political issues among themselves. They were aged in their late teens or early 20s at the time of their arrest. Abidjan Obulkasim, now aged about 23, was a student at the Physics Department of the Kashgar Teacher's Training College at the time of his arrest. In mid-1995, he was sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment after being convicted of forming a "counter-revolutionary group" and "planning" to engage in "separatist" activities. The sentence against him was reportedly increased by one year in appeal.

POLITICAL PRISONERS AND UNFAIR TRIALS

Thousands of political prisoners are reported to be imprisoned in the XUAR. In its report, Amnesty International documents the cases of about 200 political prisoners arrested during the 1990s who are believed to be still detained or imprisoned.

In the XUAR, as elsewhere in the PRC, political trials are a mere formality. The verdict is usually pre-determined and decided by or in consultation with the political authorities. Political prisoners are often held incommunicado for months or even years before they are tried, and torture is reported to be systematic. Few defendants have access to lawyers. According to some sources, some defendants in the XUAR are not given a formal trial hearing but are simply informed of their sentences after the court's adjudication committee deliberates on the case among themselves and decides on the verdict on the basis of files prepared by the police and procuracy.

Many political prisoners have been sentenced to long prison terms after unfair trials. Some were convicted of politically-motivated crimes which usually involved the advocacy or the use of violence. In many cases, they were tried behind closed doors, often without defence lawyers. Some of them were taken to "public sentencing rallies"—show trials attended by hundreds or thousands of people—during which their sentences were announced. In all cases, the prisoners are reported to have been tortured to force them to give incriminating information or to sign "confessions." Amnesty International is concerned that they were convicted and sentenced after unfair trials and that some of them may be prisoners of conscience held for the peaceful exercise of fundamental human rights.

One example is Abudkiram Abduveli, a 42-year-old Uighur from Kucha county in Aksu district, who was sentenced in May 1993 to 12 years' imprisonment and four years' deprivation of political rights of political charges. The court verdict against him by the Urumqi city Intermediate People's Court shows that Abudkiram Abduveli did not have an open trial and no lawyer to represent him. Abduveli was found guilty of "organising a counter-revolutionary group" for having allegedly planned with others in October 1990 to form a political party called the "Islamic Reformist Party." Abduveli was arrested on 17 November 1990 before the group had under-

taken any activities. He was also accused of "carrying out counter-revolutionary propaganda and agitation" for taking part in religious activities to explain the Koran, during which he allegedly advocated violence. He was initially charged (on 24 July 1991—eight months after he was taken into police custody) with the second charge only. The charge of "organizing a counter-revolutionary group" was therefore added later. The addition of this second charge at a late stage raises strong doubts as to the nature of the evidence against him both on this count and on the other charge. Abudkiram Abduveli's current place of detention is not known.

TORTURE

Under international human rights law, the right not to be tortured can never be derogated from, even "in time of public emergency which threatens the life of the nation". This right applies whoever the detainee may be and whatever the crimes he or she is suspected of having committed.

Although Chinese law explicitly prohibits "torture to extract confessions", and China has been a party to the UN Convention against Torture since 1988, torture remains widespread in the PRC. The XUAR is no exception. The reports received by Amnesty International from many sources indicate that torture and ill-treatment of prisoners are endemic in the region.

Some prisoners are reported to have died in prison due to torture or combination of ill-treatment and neglect. This was the case with Nyzamidin Yusayin, a 70 year-old scholar from Urumqi and former journalist for the official newspaper *Xinjiang Daily*, who reportedly died in police custody due to torture on 7 April 1998.

Particularly disturbing allegations have been made about the brutal treatment of people held in Gulja after the February 97 protests there. Some reportedly had to have their feet amputated, suffering severe frostbites after being hosed with icy cold water by the security forces. Severe torture of suspected political opponents is reported to have continued in that area since then. According to some sources, the extent of torture is such that many political detainees have been brought to court barely conscious and unable to walk.

Various sources had also reported the use in the XUAR of some particularly cruel forms of torture which, to Amnesty International's knowledge, are not being used elsewhere in the PRC. This includes the insertion of horse hair into the penis, or a special wire with small spikes which fold flat when inserted into the penis but extend when the wire is pulled out. According to former political prisoners, such methods of sexual torture have been used in the XUAR for many years.

While torture is reported to be widespread across the XUAR, some places of detention are particularly notorious for the extent of torture and harsh treatment inflicted on prisoners. This is notably the case at Liudaowan jail in Urumqi where many political prisoners are held.

Testimonies and cases of torture are cited in the Amnesty International report. While Amnesty International is not in a position to verify the specific allegations made in individual testimonies and reports, it believes that the number and consistency of these allegations suggest a pattern which warrants immediate action by the authorities, including thorough and impartial investigations of all reports and complaints of torture.

The authorities appear to have taken no action to curb torture in the region or to bring alleged perpetrators of torture in the XUAR. Amnesty International has not come

across any such report in the regional media over the past two years. This contrast sharply with the Chinese provinces, where local newspapers and other media have often reported cases in which police officials have been prosecuted for torture. The absence of such reports in the XUAR suggests that the authorities either ignore or cover up the widespread practice of torture in the region, or may even sanction its use in the context of repression.

ARBITRARY AND SUMMARY EXECUTIONS

The XUR is the only region of the People's Republic of China where political prisoners are known to have been executed in recent years. As elsewhere in the PRC, the death penalty is also applicable for a very wide range of offenses, including many non violent offenses such as theft, economic and drug related crime.

Since January 1997, Amnesty International has recorded at least 210 death sentences in the region, of which 190 were executed shortly after sentencing—the real figures are believed to be higher. Almost two thirds of the cases recorded were publicly reported by Chinese official sources. The vast majority of those sentenced to death and executed were Uighurs.

These figures indicate that the ratio of death sentences to the population is several times higher in the XUAR than elsewhere in China. The execution rate vis a vis the number of death sentences appears also to be higher.

Most of those sentenced to death and executed in the region are political prisoners. They have been accused of offenses related to clandestine opposition activities, street protests, violent clashes with the security forces, or terrorist incidents. Some of these cases have been publicly reported by the Chinese authorities, but others have not. When they are reported, official sources merely list the accusations against the defendants and do not provide any detail about the evidence against them or the trial proceedings.

Political prisoners charged with such offenses are often tried in secret, under procedures which are reported to be summary. Trials are a mere formality, with the verdict usually decided by the authorities before the trial. Convictions are frequently based on forced confessions and statements extracted under torture. The families are often excluded from the trials and few defendants are known to have had the assistance of defense lawyers. Defendants who appeal against the verdict invariably see their appeal rejected.

In many cases, the authorities have staged "public sentencing rallies" to publicly "pronounce" sentences imposed on alleged offenders. The defendants taken to such rallies have usually been tried behind closed doors beforehand, though in some cases it is unclear whether they have actually gone through any prior formal trial process. Official reports about such rallies show that the judicial process is a mere formality tailored for the purpose of these show trials. They also usually make clear that justice is dictated by political considerations.

Defendants who are taken to public sentencing rallies are made to stand facing the audience with their hands tied behind their back and wearing a placard on their chest, on which their name and crime are written. They are usually forced to keep their head bowed by soldiers escorting them. In some cases, their feet are also chained and their mouth is gagged with a rope or wire tied tightly at their back to prevent them from speaking or shouting. These practices violate international standards on the treatment of prisoners, by which China has agreed to abide, and unnecessary add to the inherent cruelty of the death penalty. Prisoners sentenced to death at such rallies are invariably executed immediately after the rallies.

There have been reports that some prisoners have been executed in public, notably in villages of Ili Prefecture in the west of the XUAR. It has also been reported that the authorities have refused to return the bodies of some executed prisoners to their family, thus preventing the families from burying their dead according to Muslim customs. This increases concern about reports that the prisoners were tortured to extract forced confessions. Often, the families of those sentenced to death have not been informed until the last minute about the fate of their imprisoned relatives. For example, the parents of 23 year-old Jappar Talet, one of those executed after a sentencing rally in Gulja on 22 July 1997, were reportedly informed of his execution just a few hours before it was carried out. They had no prior warning of what awaited their son. After his execution, they requested his body in order to give him a proper burial, but the authorities refused to return the body.

Amnesty International is also concerned about reports alleging that civilians and, in some cases, prisoners have been killed by the security forces or prison guards in the XUAR in circumstances which appear to constitute extrajudicial executions: deliberate and arbitrary killings by government forces acting outside the limits of the law. The Amnesty International reports describes incidents in which such killings allegedly occurred. International law provides that lethal force should only be used when absolutely necessary and in direct proportion to the legitimate objective it is intended to achieve.

Amnesty International is calling on the Chinese government to take immediate measures to curb the gross violations of human rights occurring in the region, in particular executions and torture. These measures are described in the concluding section of the report. Amnesty International is also calling on the government to institute an impartial commission of enquiry to investigate reports of human rights violations in the region and provide a forum for individuals and groups to voice their grievances. Amnesty International believes this should be accompanied by a comprehensive assessment of the needs in education, health and the economic disparities in the region, particularly given China's signature of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in 1997.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN R. KASICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 1999

Mr. KASICH. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, April 20, 1999, I was unable to record a vote by electronic device on rollcall No. 93, condemning the murder of human rights lawyer Rosemary Nelson and calling for the protection of defense attorneys in Northern Ireland. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall No. 93.

HONORING BILL COORS AND THE ALUMINUM BEVERAGE CAN

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 1999

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to note an important event taking place forty years ago in the State of Colorado. An occur-

rence so remarkable, it forever changed industry and society worldwide. In 1959 the Coors Brewing Company, with the initiative of Bill Coors, began distributing its beer in seven-ounce aluminum cans.

By eliminating the use of steel cans and replacing them with aluminum, Coors Brewing Company led industry and the populace into a world of recycling. Consequently, they saved natural resources, conserved energy, reduced municipal solid waste, and established the infrastructure for today's curbside recycling programs. Highways and landfills once littered with single-use steel cans are becoming a thing of the past. Today, more than 70 percent of aluminum cans are recycled and placed back into the consumer's hands.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to pay tribute to Mr. Coors and the anniversary of his invention. His passion for environmentally-conscious business continues to set a worldwide example.

GIFTS FROM TWO FATHERS

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 1999

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, some of the finest and most patriotic people that we have in this Nation today are naturalized citizens who came from other countries.

This is true in Knoxville, TN where we have many leading citizens who have come from other nations.

We have an exceptional strong Greek Community and one of the finest of that group is a man named George Consin.

He and other members of the Knoxville Greek Community have contributed in too many ways to list at this time, however, the Knoxville News Sentinel recently published an article telling the story of how Mr. Consin and his wife, Mary, adopted a small boy from Greece many years ago.

This is a touching human interest story that I would like to call to the attention of my fellow Members and other readers of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

[From the Knoxville News-Sentinel, Apr. 11, 1999]

GIFTS FROM TWO FATHERS

(By Kristi L. Nelson)

In 1958, in the small town of Volos, Greece, the young wife of 27-year-old Soterios Kalliakoudas gave birth to a boy, their first child. The mother died of complications a few weeks after the birth, and Kalliakoudas, a shepherd and himself the oldest of six children, didn't feel he could raise the boy himself or burden his parents with another child. After the baby was christened—the mother's dying wish—he was placed with a foster family in Greece and put up for adoption.

About a year later, Kalliakoudas married his second wife, Meropi.

After learning her husband had a son, she told him, "You go and find that baby. I will raise him as my own." The family gathered at the Kalliakoudas' home to welcome George, who was named, in the Greek tradition, after his paternal grandfather.

But Kalliakoudas returned home empty-handed to face the disappointed family. Upon arriving at the foster home, he was told George had already been adopted and taken

to America. Afterward he always spoke with regret of losing his first son and told people he had four children, including the son who had gone to America.

Soterios and Meropi had two sons—the first again named George in Greek tradition and the second named Dimitri—and a daughter, Viriana. As they grew, they would see men in town who resembled them and wonder if the mystery brother might not be in America after all. As adults, they made an unsuccessful attempt to locate George in America.

"They knew I was in the United States, but the United States is a very big place," Consin Jr. said. "They didn't know where to look."

George and Mary Consin Sr. were born in Greece but met in America. George Sr. came to America with his family in 1933. Mary came to America in 1946, after World War II. After marrying, the couple tried for a decade—without success—to bear a child.

A relative who was a congressman in Athens, Greece, arranged for the Consins to adopt 20-month-old George. Although American adoption agencies considered George Sr. and Mary old to be adoptive parents, Greek adoption agencies preferred older couples, whom they considered more stable.

The Consins were thrilled, but a trip to Greece would be expensive. They asked for help from longtime family friends Jim and Jenny Peroulas, who were planning a family vacation to Greece with their children, Maria and Johnny.

"They were very close friends," said Jim Peroulas, former owner of a Market Square restaurant and now a bailiff for Sessions Judge Brenda Waggoner. "They were depending on us to bring the baby up here."

The Peroulases picked up the boy and kept him with them in Greece for a few weeks before boarding a 12 hour flight to the United States. The Peroulases then stayed with the Consins for a few days, until George Jr. was used to his new home.

"He was a very nice boy," Jim Peroulas said. "They took care of the boy and brought him up right. They told him that and was involved in (the adoption), and George asked me several times to tell him those tales."

George Jr. grew up in Knoxville, fully aware that he was adopted. "It was never an issue or a secret," he said. Being an only child, he was "spoiled rotten," he said.

His parents, like many other Greeks, emphasized the importance of family, hospitality and church. George Jr. grew up close to aunts, uncles and cousins as well as the extended "family" of St. George Greek Orthodox Church, where he was an altar boy and attended church school. In public school, he learned English.

As a child, George Jr. was regaled with his father's stories of a childhood in Greece and his mother's stories of Greece during the war. Though he was interested in the Greek culture, growing up in America suited George Jr. fine.

"I'm sure that I was afforded opportunities I wouldn't have had there," he said.

When he was 20, George Jr. met 17-year-old Angela Barkas on a vacation in Myrtle Beach, where her father owned a restaurant. Twelve years ago—after his graduation from the University of Tennessee and her graduation from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro—they were married. Now George Jr. is vice president of retail sales at First American National Bank and Angela's an interior designer. They have two sons—Alex, 8, and Nicholas, 6.

George Jr.'s parents told Angela of his background, and from time to time the couple would discuss the possibility of finding his birth father.

"Because he was adopted in Greece, it wasn't like we ever thought a reunion would

be possible." Angela said "It's so far away, and there's the language barrier. * * * We never thought it would happen."

In April 1997, a Greek delegation from Larissa, Greece—about 45 minutes from George Jr.'s birthplace in Volos—visited Knoxville. After reading about the delegation's journey in the News-Sentinel, George Sr. approached someone in the group about trying to locate George Jr.'s birth father, whose last name and first initial he had on a document. George Sr. wasn't sure the other man still lived in Volos, or whether he was even still living, but an attorney in Greece helped him locate the Kalliakoudas family.

In October 1997, George Sr. made a phone call to Volos and spoke with Meropi, who told him Soterios had his vocal cords removed as a result of throat cancer and could not speak on the phone. Meropi and Soterios immediately sent letters to George Sr., while George, Dimitri and Viriana each sent family photograph with information written on the back.

They were overjoyed to have finally found the "other brother."

George Jr. was at work one day when he got a phone call from George Sr., now, 78 and working in the 78 and working in the Knox County property assessors office. "I've got something for you" he told him. "Can you come down to my office?"

The elder Consin presented his son the envelope of letters and photographs. "He wanted to give me this opportunity while he was still alive," George Jr. said. "He was waiting for the right time."

He took the envelope home to Angela. Together they pored over the first letter which took George Jr. two hours to read because his knowledge of the Greek language was rusty. That weekend, apprehensive of the language barrier, they placed a long-distance call to Viriana.

"We didn't want to shock his father, and we knew he couldn't speak," Angela said.

The phone call cost \$80—and countless tears of joy.

"We started getting calls from Greece almost immediately—aunts, uncles, cousins and siblings," said George Jr., who said Soterios at first was afraid his son would be angry at him for giving him up. George Jr. quickly made it clear that wasn't the case and now talks to his Greek relatives at least twice a month.

The Consins had been saving money for living room furniture and a family trip to Disney World. "George came in and said, 'Forget the furniture! Forget Disney! We're going to Greece!'" Angela said.

In May 1998, the couple went, taking along their sons to meet a "new" grandfather. About 30 relatives met them at the airport. "We were all crying," Angela said. "It was very exciting."

The Consins stayed in Greece for three weeks. "It was very comfortable," George said. "It was like we had known them all our lives."

Because both George Jr. and Angela had grown up only children, their sons met their only first cousins. Four of Soterios' five brothers as well as all their children and their families lived within three blocks of Soterios and Meropi. "My children didn't speak Greek, and the cousins didn't speak English, but they played together all the time," Angela said.

Nor did his inability to speak English keep Soterios from bonding with his new grandsons. "He spent a lot of time with (Alex and Nicholas), taking them for walks and out for ice cream," George Jr. said. "If they were doing something wrong, he'd whistle to let them know."

George Jr. got to meet his own paternal grandparents, now in their 90s, as well as his

godfather—who was present at his christening—and countless other relatives. "We probably met 100 people while we were there," Angela said.

Moreover, Meropi tracked down the family of George's biological mother—of whom she was a friend—and invited them over for a meal, an unselfish gesture that stunned the Consins.

"Here she was, the second wife, having to deal with the first wife's child," Angela said, "and she invited the first wife's sister over for lunch, having her there in the house crying over the dead wife's picture. She was so gracious."

This meeting with the mother's sister led to a trip to her house in Trikala, an hour-and-a-half drive from Volos. Three of George Jr.'s mother's four sisters and their families—about 30 people in all—attended a luncheon to welcome the newfound relatives. Again, the Consins were overwhelmed by hospitality.

"They slaughtered a pig for us," Angela said. "They even made their own feta cheese—they even made their own wine! Even the salad we ate was from their own garden."

The Consins were "treated like kings and queens" throughout their stay, they said. They would admire an object in town, only to find it on their bed the next day. They had to buy two extra suitcases in Greece to bring home all their gifts.

The Consins also brought American gifts for their new Greek family—perfume for the women, jewelry for the girls, Beanie Babies and Legos for the children. But it was a gift sent the previous Christmas that was most precious to Soterios and Meropi.

Angela had made the Kalliakoudases a photo album of George growing up, using two photographs from each year of his life, and had a friend fluent in Greek write captions underneath. She ended the photo album with photos of Alex and Nicholas and left blank pages for future pictures of the family's times together.

"When we went to visit, that album was on their coffee table with the photo albums of the other children," Angela said. "Meropi said (Soterios) showed it to everyone who came over."

They hope to fill the album to overflowing. George Jr. will leave for another trip to Greece later this month—Angela and the children will join him for another trip next year—and the Consins hope their Greek relatives will be able to visit them in America.

George Jr. said his adoptive parents and newfound biological parents get along well. Meropi calls George and Mary Consin, he said, and the Kalliakoudases always ask about the Consins and refer to them to George Jr. as "your parents."

And they all realize their debt to George Consin Sr., who gave his son a second father—and Soterios back his son.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PLANT PROTECTION ACT OF 1999

HON. CHARLES T. CANADY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 1999

Mr. CANADY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Plant Protection Act of 1999. Our nation's farmlands, wilderness, and public lands are facing a serious threat from invasive plants and plant pests that can destroy valuable crops and other natural resources. The United States loses thousands of

acres and billions of dollars in lost produce and prevention costs each year due to invasive species. In addition, the ecosystems of our parks and wilderness areas are confronting devastating harm from these non-indigenous plants and pests. The rapid growth of international trade has resulted in a vastly increased volume of goods flowing into the country—goods that may carry prohibited foreign plants or noxious weeds.

These harmful invasive plants and species are causing considerable economic damage to natural resources nationwide. In my home state of Florida, Citrus Canker poses the largest threat to citrus crop production in recent history, necessitating over \$160 million in state and federal government funding to curb the disease. In the South, cotton producers and the federal government have spent nearly \$500 million to prevent damage to crops due to Bollweevil pests. Chicago and New York have suffered significant losses to the Asian longhorned beetle, which has destroyed thousands of trees in city neighborhoods. Noxious weeds have attacked crops in the Carolinas and in the rangelands of Oregon, Idaho and Washington. In California and Florida, invasive species have halted high-value agricultural exports from disease infested areas. The effect of invasive plants and species throughout the country is profound.

Exacerbating this problem are the outdated, fragmented, and confusing quarantine statutes that govern interdiction of prohibited plant and plant pests. Many of these laws date back to the early part of this century and have not been updated in decades. Our agricultural sector and public lands need a modern, effective statutory authority that will protect our crops from the introduction of harmful pests.

The Plant Protection Act of 1999 will build a solid foundation for the future by streamlining and modernizing plant interdiction laws. This legislation consolidates eleven existing statutes into one comprehensive law and eliminates outdated and ambiguous provisions. It also establishes effective deterrents against trafficking of prohibited species by increasing the monetary penalties for smuggling; providing the U.S. Department of Agriculture with a comprehensive set of investigatory tools; ensuring transparency for U.S. trading partners; and recognizing the benefits of new technologies such as biological control organisms.

The Plant Protection Act, originally introduced in the 105th Congress, will enhance the ability of our nation to protect its lands and crops by giving the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service the investigatory and enforcement tools it needs. The U.S. Department of Agriculture, as well as 45 agricultural organizations from throughout the country support the Plant Protection Act. I look forward to working with my colleagues to pass this vital and important legislation.

TRIBUTE TO HIS HIGHNESS
SHEIKH ISSA BIN SALMAN AL-
KHALIFA, LATE EMIR OF THE
STATE OF BAHRAIN

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 1999

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, March 6th, His Highness Sheikh Issa Bin

Salman Al-Khalifa, the Emir of Bahrain, died suddenly. The world mourned with the people of Bahrain, and, last week, on April 14th, the State of Bahrain commemorated the 40th, and last, day of mourning.

Sheikh Issa played an important role as the leader of Bahrain. He supported U.S. and international efforts to promote peace and stability during the most difficult and contentious times in the Gulf and the Middle East. He was a man who relied on his intuition and led Bahrain from an oil-based economy to a diversified one. Under the Emir, Bahrain advanced in the Arab world, becoming the regional headquarters for many U.S. corporations doing business in the Middle East and a major financial hub in the Gulf.

Sheikh Issa's son, Sheikh Hamad Bin Issa Al-Khalifa, assumed his father's position as Emir of Bahrain, and is expected to follow in his father's footsteps in promoting economic development at home and political cooperation abroad. Soon after the Emir's death, His Highness, Sheikh Khalifa Bin Salman Al-Khalifa, the Prime Minister of Bahrain, gave a eulogy in memory of the late Emir.

Accordingly, Mr. Speaker, I request that his remarks be included in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD for our colleagues' review. I know that we all share in the sorrow of the citizens of Bahrain. Yet, we look forward to even closer bilateral relations between the United States and the State of Bahrain under Emir Hamad in the months and years to come.

EULOGY OF HIS HIGHNESS SHAIKH KHALIFA BIN
SALMAN AL-KHALIFA, PRIME MINISTER OF
THE STATE OF BAHRAIN

It is a most said occasion to stand here today over the lost of the dearest and most cherished of men, the late Emir H.H. Sheikh Issa Bin Salman Al-Khalifa, leader, father, and dear brother. May his soul rest in eternal peace and may God Almighty grant him mercy.

With the passing of H.H. Sheikh Issa Bin Salman Al-Khalifa, Bahrain and the Arab and Islamic world have lost a unique leader, who pledged himself and devoted his entire life to building and developing his country in all fields. He was tireless in his endeavors to achieve peace and security in the region and in the world. He was also a kind and gentle leader, full of love and devotion for his people. He set himself as an example that is hard to follow. As a leader and father, he combined wisdom with a loving heart and high moral standards of decency. In dealing with his people and other nations, he relied on justice and honesty. His ultimate goal was cooperation and peace for all relations among nations.

H.H. Sheikh Issa's reign was an era of peace, a time of building and progress, a time of development and national unity. During his reign, Bahrain achieved regional and international recognition in all fields—an achievement that makes us all very proud. Bahrain made progress and development in health, education, and housing. Our nation reached a higher economic status, as well as an excellent reputation of credibility abroad. Bahrain played a prominent role in establishing and strengthening the Gulf Cooperation Council. Under his leadership, our nation had a very positive role in all Arab issues, calling for solidarity, urging the removal of all matters of discord, and defending Arab rights and issues. Internationally, Bahrain attained a distinguished status due to the respect, trust, and friendship he personally developed with leaders of the world. Those leaders appreciated his great contributions in promoting world peace, security,

and stability and in strengthening international cohesion and cooperation, as well as supporting humane values and issues.

No words can really give adequate credit to the last Emir H.H. Sheikh Issa Bin Salman Al-Khalifa for his love for his country and his kindness to his people. He was a sincere Emir—a wise leader, an idealist in his devotion with concern and care for all Arab, Islamic, and world issues. H.H. Sheikh Issa shall remain a giant among men in the history of this nation for his great achievements and his high morals and ethics. His memory shall forever remain alive in the minds and hearts of his country and his loving people.

In this time of great sorrow for H.H. Sheikh Issa we take solace his son and successor, H.H. Sheikh Hamad Bin Issa Al-Khalifa, with every confidence that he will be a fit and able successor to his father. We are confident that his reign shall witness further development, progress, and prosperity due to his wisdom, excellent leadership capabilities, and strong administrative abilities. It is our pride to exert the utmost dedication in supporting H.H. Sheikh Hamad to continue the path of development which was established by the beloved, great leader nationally, regionally, and internationally.

We would also like to extend our best wishes to our dear son H.H. Sheikh Salman Bin Hamad Bin Issa Al-Khalifa on his appointment as Crown Prince—an appointment that has received the full consideration and support of all.

The proper transfer of leadership in this nation has a positive impact on all, since it reflects the solidity of the rule of law and all its institutions that the late Emir has established. In this sad time, we would like to express our sincere pride for the show of support displayed by the Bahraini people, symbolizing the spirit of a single family that the late leader was keen to develop. This spirit reflects the cohesion between the people of Bahrain and their leadership, as the late leader had wished.

We wish to extend our deepest gratitude and appreciation to the leaders, governments, and peoples of all brotherly and friendly states for their true sentiments and their generous participation with Bahrain on the sad demise of the late great leader, the father, and beloved brother H.H. Sheikh Issa.

May God Almighty grant our beloved leader mercy and rest in heaven. Peace and God's mercy by upon you all.

MATT MOSELEY IS A FINE EXAMPLE OF EXTRAORDINARY COURAGE

HON. MAC COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 1999

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a resident of my Congressional district from Locust Grove, Georgia, who recently demonstrated extraordinary courage and bravery in the face of extreme danger.

Atlanta Professional Firefighter (member of Local 134) Matt Moseley began his day on April 12 like many others, at 7 am. He was called to a chemical spill in the morning, ate lunch at Fire Station 4 on Ellis Street, and then planned to spend the afternoon training. Little did he know what lay ahead.

A fire raging at the 120 year old Fulton Bag and Cotton Mill in southeast Atlanta had trapped construction worker Ivers Sims on a crane for over an hour some 220 feet above

the ground. After arriving on the scene, Moseley was hooked to a harness and flown in by helicopter to battle the intense heat, smoke, and swirling winds. His incredible skill and courage, along with that of pilot Boyd Clines and navigator Larry Rogers, all provided for a very daring and unbelievable rescue.

This is but another achievement in an already distinguished career for Mr. Moseley. He began his service as a firefighter with the Fayette County Fire and Emergency Services in 1991. He then went on to become a paramedic and a member of the department's hazardous materials response team. His hard work and dedication earned him recognition by his fellow department members as Firefighter of the Year in 1995. Shortly thereafter, he joined the Atlanta Fire Department where he continues to serve.

Following his brave act, Firefighter Moseley humbly remarked, "Heroes are for the last show." Well they are also for towns like Locust Grove, cities like Atlanta, and states like Georgia. Mr. Speaker, we often overlook the daily sacrifices our brave firefighters make each and every day to our communities. I would like to extend my personal commendation and gratitude to Mr. Moseley and to all the men and women who put their lives on the line serving as firefighters. They truly are heroes of our Nation.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM MORROW ON
HIS INDUCTION TO THE UPPER
PENINSULA LABOR HALL OF
FAME

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 1999

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, since 1993 eleven outstanding labor leaders, individuals who have contributed to organizing, workplace fairness, worker dignity, and the advancement of the labor movement in northern Michigan, have been honored with induction into the Upper Peninsula Labor Hall of Fame. The Hall of Fame is housed in the Superior Dome on the campus of Northern Michigan University in Marquette.

I have the honor once again this year to participate in this important and inspiring induction ceremony, which pays tribute to the dedicated efforts of the late William Morrow of Escanaba on behalf of the labor movement.

Mr. Morrow is being recognized for his efforts in organizing the construction laborers in the Upper Peninsula and his assistance in obtaining a charter for Laborer's International Union of North America, Local 1329, based in Iron Mountain, Mich.

William Morrow's parents died when he was young, and he began working at age 16 as an operator of heavy equipment on dredges. He joined a union, because he believed a working person could receive a fair wage and decent working conditions with a union contract.

Mr. Speaker, William Morrow believed unions helped both the ordinary working person and the employer, and he believed in the basic principle, "an honest day's work for an honest day's pay."

He was a member of the International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 324, and busi-

ness representative from 1951–1968. He served as vice president for Local 324 from 1964–1968, and he achieved lifetime membership in Local 324 in December 1977. William Morrow's widow, Gertrude, still lives in Escanaba.

We can praise the everyday efforts of the hard-working men and women of Michigan, Mr. Speaker, but there are monuments to the quality of their work that make our mere words seem insufficient to the task. One such monument is the great Mackinac Bridge, which connects Upper and Lower Michigan across the deep and dangerous Straits of Mackinac.

Mr. Morrow worked on the bridge, part of the dredging operation necessary for construction of the two great towers of the suspension bridge. He was one of the more than 11,000 workers—3,500 on the site and 7,500 in shops and quarries off the site—required to construct this engineering marvel and testament to the courage and dedication of working America.

I look forward each year to the opportunity to gather with friends and associates in northern Michigan to praise these men and women, people like William Morrow, who have dedicated themselves to doing great work as an ordinary, everyday task. I ask my colleagues in the House to join me in praising these remarkable efforts.

HONORING THE SACRIFICE, SERVICE, AND HEROISM EXHIBITED
BY THE WORLD WAR II UNITED
STATES NAVAL ARMED GUARD
VETERANS

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 1999

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay special tribute to the World War II United States Naval Armed Guard Veterans. Created in World War I and expanded in World War II, the Naval Armed Guard performed the vital service of protecting our merchant vessels and their precious cargo from enemy attack. Without these service-members' heroic and inspirational service, the United States' overseas supply lines would have been compromised and our Nation's efforts abroad would have been impeded. Indeed, the United States' owes its ultimate victory in the preservation of freedom and democracy to the struggles and sacrifices of the 144,900 members of the Navy serving in the Armed Guard during World War II.

Although lacking the best available weapons and technology, these servicemembers insured the safe passage of thousands of troops overseas by manning the guns on both Army and War Shipping transports. By sheer determination, these members transcended the harrowing dangers involved in riding slow cargo ships across what German U-boat captains called the "shooting gallery" and fought off countless enemy planes, submarines, and other enemy vessels. In these efforts nearly 2,000 servicemembers lost their lives and thousands more were wounded or taken prisoner.

Many nations like Great Britain, France, Russia, and the Philippines have awarded high honors to the members of the Naval Armed Guard for their valor and accomplish-

ments in aiding these nations during World War II. It is now long past due that the United States follow suit and commend these servicemembers for their invaluable service in the preservation of freedom and democracy and in the protection of our troops abroad.

I therefore ask that my colleagues pause with me to honor the World War II Naval Armed Guard Veterans. I am greatly honored to join many others throughout the world in saying thank you to the Naval Armed Guard veterans for their vigilance in defending our great country. We salute you for your service to our nation, and your willingness to sacrifice your lives and safety so that others might enjoy your legacy of freedom. Your efforts will not be forgotten.

THE NEED FOR SUSTAINABLE
COMMUNITIES

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 1999

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, by the middle of the next millennium, the world's population is expected to reach 8 to 12 billion people. Right now we are adding about 86 million people annually. All of us must find common ground on the issues of land and resource use and sustainable communities.

Recently, a groundbreaking took place in North Toledo to provide 49 families with new homes in the North River neighborhood. That event gave me great hope that, as a community—a multitude of jurisdictions in one of the most bountiful regions of the world—people in northwest Ohio are improving the quality of life in existing neighborhoods and making it attractive for commercial investment on reusable land—precious land.

As an Urban Planner myself, I hope that gone are the days that we neglect and abandon what has been developed for another site at the expense of the original location.

To promote a livable community, cooperation between public and private institutions is essential. Cooperation between neighboring communities, cities, suburbs and rural areas will be the key to meeting the needs of the 21st century—greater populations, more traffic, sprawl, and pollution.

We must have as our goal, a community that works together for our common good, not just individual special interests.

Together, individuals, families, businesses and civic organizations must become involved in local planning, to ensure that every voice is heard and all concerns are represented at the table.

By planning more wisely for more livable communities, we will be able to preserve our precious open spaces for generations to come. Such a conscious vision will enable families to enjoy our country's natural beauty. And we'll be able to preserve our precious farms and prime farmland which America has been losing at alarming record rates.

U.S. Census figures show that from 1982 to 1992 Ohio lost 1.2 million acres of irreplaceable farmland to development. But unfortunately, this isn't native only to Ohio. Across the nation, prime farmland with the highest productivity is being lost. Globally, these sources of food, fiber and vegetable production cannot be reinvented.

I'm pleased that the state of Ohio has stepped up to the plate and passed a farm-land preservation bill. As a co-author of national legislation to preserve for agricultural production, I am gratified that our state will now join dozens of other in adopting a policy for land reuse and for the voluntary set-aside of land for agricultural production in perpetuity.

Preserving our farmlands means revitalizing the core of our cities, townships and villages. The Mayor of Fostoria, Ohio had it right recently when he said, "the best thing I can do to protect farmland is make my city worth investing in."

For America's first two centuries, our communities have grown without more constraints. We could easily cast away old city neighborhoods for the suburbs and treat prime productive land as though it were no different from asphalt. Those choices won't be the same for those who live in the 21st century as the world's population reaches eight to twelve billion people.

I'm reminded of the words of Daniel Webster:

Let us develop the resources of our land, call forth its powers, build up its institutions, promote all its great interests, and see whether we also, in our day and generation, may not perform something worthy to be remembered.

We must put people and vision back at the center of our planning efforts. We must be conscious of our region and the earth as an ecosystem that needs tending. A common vision for an American future that is sustainable must be our objective.

CHILDREN'S DAY IN TURKEY

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 1999

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, later this week the Republic of Turkey will celebrate "Children's Day" as has been the custom every April 23rd since the early 1920s. Such festive occasions are important reminders of the wonderful blessing that children are to family and society alike. Regrettably, the joy of this celebration will not be shared by all children in Turkey. Recently, I chaired a hearing of the Helsinki Commission that reviewed human rights practices in Turkey, an original signatory to the 1975 Helsinki Final Act. The disturbing testimony presented at that hearing underscored the vulnerability of children.

Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights and Labor, Harold Koh, cited the case of two-year-old Azat Tokmak to illustrate how terrible and dehumanizing the practice of torture is for everyone involved, including children. Azat was tortured, according to Mr. Koh, in an effort to secure a confession from her mother. He testified: "In April [1998] the Istanbul Chamber of Doctors certified that Azat showed physical and psychological signs of torture after detention at an Istanbul branch of the anti-terror police. Azat's mother, Fatma Tokmak, was detained in December 1996 on suspicion of membership in the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK). Azat was burned with cigarettes and kicked in an effort to make her mother confess." Mr. Speaker, we are talking about a two-year-old child—a baby—being tortured by police.

At the same March 18th hearing, Stephen Rickard, Director of the Washington Office of Amnesty International USA, observed, "There is something Orwellian about calling units that torture and beat children and sexually assault their victims 'anti-terror' police." Mr. Rickard displayed a photograph of Done Talun, a twelve-year-old girl from a poor neighborhood in Ankara, to give a human face to the problem of torture in Turkey. "For five days, she was beaten and tortured while her frantic family asked for information about her whereabouts and condition," Rickard said. Done was accused of stealing some bread. Her torture reportedly occurred at the Ankara Police Headquarters. "Is this young girl's case unique? Unfortunately, it is not," he concluded. Mr. Rickard presented the Commission with a recent AI report: "Gross Violations in the Name of Fighting Terror: The Human Rights Record Of Turkey's 'Anti-Terror' Police Units." The report includes a section on the torture of children.

Mr. Douglas A. Johnson, Executive Director of the Center for Victims of Torture, testified that there are thirty-seven different forms of torture practiced in Turkey today. Addressing the torture of children, Johnson observed, "twenty percent of our clients over the years were tortured when they were children, and usually that was to use them as a weapon against their parents," similar to the case of two-year-old Azat Tokmak.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the Clinton Administration to press the Government of Turkey to eliminate the climate of impunity that has allowed children like Azat and Done to be subjected to such gross abuse at the hands of the police. Then, and only then, will children such as these—"the least of these"—be able to fully partake in the joy of this special Children's Day set aside to celebrate their lives and those of all children in Turkey.

PROTECT OUR CHILDREN

HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 1999

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, gun related violence is an issue that has, in recent years adversely affected the lives of American children and adults. We have a responsibility, as leaders and parents to address this problem and work towards creating a solution. Children should feel safe in our Nation's urban and rural areas, and in order to create an environment that is a safe one, we must deal with the issue of the misuse and abuse of guns. I feel that this issue may be addressed by requiring manufacturers to fit firearms with a child safety lock. Therefore, I felt that it was necessary to introduce the Child Safety Lock Act of 1999.

This bill will prohibit any person from transferring or selling a firearm, in the United States, unless it is sold with a child safety lock. Further, this legislation would prohibit the transfer or sale of firearms by federally licensed dealers and manufacturers unless a child safety lock is an integral component of the firearm.

A child safety lock is a locking mechanism that attaches to the trigger guard of a firearm. The device fits over the trigger guard and the

trigger, preventing the firearm from unintentionally discharging. Once the device is properly applied, it cannot be removed unless it is unlocked.

According to statistics from the Centers for Disease Control, more than 5,000 innocent boys and girls have lost their lives due to unintentional firearm related death. Between 1983 and 1994, 5,523 males between the ages of 1 and 19 were killed by the unintentional discharge of a firearm. The loss of these young lives can be prevented, which is why this legislation is necessary.

To improve the quality of life for children and adults, and avoid the continued senseless bloodshed and loss of life of children around this country, we should work together to pass the Child Safety Lock Act of 1999. It is our obligation to protect our children. This bill does just that, it protects our children and it protects their future.

SUMMARY OF LEGISLATION AS INTRODUCED

Section 1. Short title

This Act may be cited as the "Child Safety Lock Act of 1999."

Section 2. Findings

Presents findings to support the need for this legislation.

TITLE 1—CRIMINAL PROVISIONS

Section 101. Handgun safety

Defines what a locking device is, provides for locking devices and warnings on handguns and penalties related to locking devices and warnings.

TITLE 2—REGULATORY PROVISIONS

Section 201. Regulation of trigger lock devices

Establishes general authority for the Secretary of the Treasury to prescribe regulations governing trigger lock devices.

Section 202. Orders inspections

Allows the Secretary of the Treasury to issue an order and/or inspections regarding a trigger lock device which is in violation of this title.

Section 203. Enforcement

Allows the Secretary of the Treasury to assess civil penalties and/or criminal penalties for violation of a provision of this title.

Section 204. No effect on State law

This title does not annul, alter, impair, or affect, or exempt any person subject to the provisions of this title from complying with, any provision of the law of any State or any political subdivision thereof, except to the extent that such provisions of State law are inconsistent with any provision of this title, and then only to the extent of the inconsistency.

Section 205. Definitions

Defines terms used in this title.

TITLE 3—EDUCATION PROVISIONS

Section 301. Portion of firearms tax revenue to be used for public education on safe storage of firearms

Uses 2 percent of the firearms tax revenue and uses it for public education on the safe storage and use of firearms.

HONORING MR. JOHN P. VASSAK FOR 25 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. SUE W. KELLY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 1999

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a very special person. This morning I have the

pleasure of meeting the North Salem Middle School's 8th Grade Class on the steps of the U.S. House of Representatives.

This is not the first time I have met with the fine young men and women of the middle school. What makes this visit so extraordinary is that this year marks the 25th time Mr. John P. Vassak—a dedicated social studies teacher—has personally escorted his classes to our nation's capitol.

By investing his time year after year to bring his students to Washington, DC he excites their minds and instills in them a greater understanding for how our government works. He is able to show them the Capitol, the Supreme Court and the White House while he teaches the importance of the checks and balances in the three branches of our government. He is also able to point out the various monuments to our heroes who have served to protect the freedom we all enjoy.

Through his generosity of time and talents, Mr. Vassak has exemplified the pride for our nation and instills in these children the respect for our democracy it so deserves. These children will understand the foundation of our government and their rights and responsibilities in our democracy. Because of Mr. Vassak's dedication, they will forever be better citizens. Congratulations to you, Mr. Vassak.

CONGRATULATING THE BOWIE
BLADE-NEWS ON WINNING NEWS-
PAPER OF THE YEAR

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 1999

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of Maryland's most informative and well respected newspapers, "The Bowie Blade-News." The Blade-News was recently named Newspaper of the Year for its division, by the Maryland-Delaware-District of Columbia Press Association. In addition, Editor John Rouse and five other members of the editorial staff were recognized for their work in various categories for a total of 14 awards.

Blade-News photographer Sharon Tazelaar received a first-place award for the division in the category of Spot News Photo, beating out photojournalists from daily newspapers such as the Washington Post and the Baltimore Sun. Other Blade-News staff receiving awards were Sports Editor Christine Krapf, and staff writers Cheryl Allison, David Emanuel and Donna Reifsnider.

Having been involved in public service in Maryland for much of my life, I have had the distinct honor of working with John Rouse and his staff of reporters and photographers. Rouse, who has held the title of Editor at the Blade-News for 27 years has worked hard to ensure that the Bowie Blade-News upholds the Capital-Gazette Newspapers philosophy which is, "Every issue of every newspaper represents a battle for excellence." Under Rouse's leadership, the Bowie Blade-News has become a vital source of information for the community.

Mr. Speaker, the Capital-Gazette Newspapers, which owns and publishes the Bowie Blade-News, has a long and rich history of informing the people of Maryland and is one of the oldest newspaper publishers in the coun-

try. The company's original newspaper, the Maryland Gazette, was first published in 1727 and many of the reports published in the Gazette were copied by Benjamin Franklin and other Colonial editors for their own newspapers. This newspaper also has the distinction of having had the first woman editor and publisher of a newspaper in the American Colonies.

The Maryland Gazette also survived strong local sympathies for the Confederacy, all the while sharply criticizing the movement to dissolve the Union. In fact, the newspaper was saved by President Abraham Lincoln when he appointed the publisher as the federal paymaster for the state of Maryland, helping the publisher to subsidize his newspaper.

Under the guidance of John Rouse, the Bowie Blade-News is upholding this tradition of seeking out the truth and providing the information to the surrounding community. It plays a vital role in the daily lives of the people who rely on it for news and information about their neighborhoods. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have such an honorable news organization in my Congressional District and I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Bowie Blade-News on being named the 1998 Newspaper of the Year by the Maryland-Delaware-District of Columbia Press Association.

AUTHORIZING AWARDING OF GOLD
MEDAL TO ROSA PARKS

SPEECH OF

HON. WILLIAM (BILL) CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 1999

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute today to one of our Nation's heroes. Rosa Louise McCauley Parks has been called the Mother of the modern civil rights movement. She was born in Alabama in 1913 and grew up in a racially segregated world. Rosa was forced to endure the horrors of white hooded racists who burned crosses and terrorized blacks. She was part of a generation of black children who were denied access to a public education and denied their basic human rights as equal citizens under law. But Rosa Parks was among those who championed the cause of right over might, for the sake of black Americans and all Americans. She overcame her fears of the segregated society in which she lived and faced down the racial hatred that clouded her childhood.

December 1, 1955, marked a turning point in the life of Rosa Parks. After a hard day of work, she claimed a seat on a Montgomery city bus and then she refused to give it up to a white male. Her actions inspired the Montgomery bus boycott that led to the Supreme Court ruling overturning the laws of Alabama. This simple act of courage changed her life forever. Her decision is now remembered as the spark that lit the path of the march for civil rights. In 1955 Rosa Parks stayed in her seat and stood up to scores of unjust and racist laws. She has spent the rest of her life working and struggling for justice and equality for all.

Mrs. Parks' peaceful defiance of racial segregation made her a legend in the history of this Nation. Today, children who understand little of the real horrors of racial segregation

know the tale of Rosa Parks and how she helped to lead our nation to the end of this truly terrible chapter in our history.

Today, Mrs. Parks is a legend who reminds us that though much has been accomplished since that cold December night in Montgomery AL, nearly 44 years ago, the struggle to end racism and inequality is far from over. I salute Rosa Parks for her innumerable contributions to our Nation—she is a woman whose story will inspire generations to come. I urge passage of H.R. 563, authorizing the President of the United States to award the Congressional Gold Medal to Mrs. Rosa Parks.

TRIBUTE TO DOROTHY AND OZZIE
GOREN AND THEIR FAMILY

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 1999

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my good friends, Ozzie and Dorothy Goren, and their children, Jerry, Carol, and Bruce, who are all being honored this year by Jewish Family Service of Los Angeles. Every member of the Goren family gives tireless and selfless service to a wide variety of Jewish organizations and agencies. The Goren family is legendary for its generosity and commitment to human rights, civil rights and human relations.

The Gorens have not only served their community in Los Angeles, they have extended their benevolent service to many institutions in Israel as well. Since their first visit in 1962, Ozzie and Dorothy have returned 62 times. Like few other visitors, the Gorens have left their mark on Israel. If you are in Mitze Ramon, you can visit the Dorothy and Ozzie Goren Day Care Center, which serves children from infancy to 3 years old. Together with our mutual friends, Richard and Lois Gunther, the Gorens created a special park in Tel Aviv where Arab and Israeli children play together every day.

The Gorens taught their children well and the entire family is involved in philanthropic activities. Jerry Goren, (the Goren's oldest son) and his partner Julia Coley, have implemented a law and public school magnet program at Dorsey High School in southwest Los Angeles. Daughter Carol, together with her husband Rob Corn, volunteers at the Board of Hertz School, the Colorado Humane Society and the Jewish Family Service of Denver. Bruce, Dorothy and Ozzie's youngest son, met his future wife, Susie, during a leadership mission to Israel. Now a successful businessman, he is a past board member of Jewish Family Service of Santa Monica. Susie is active with the Stephen Wise Temple board, the Jewish Federal Council and is completing the Wexner Heritage Program.

Among Dorothy's notable achievements is service as past president of Jewish Family Service, as a member of the Board of the Jewish Home for the Aging, and as the first woman to chair the overall United Jewish Fund Campaign.

Ozzie has also chaired the United Jewish Fund Campaign and served as Jewish Federation President. His close work with the Southern California Human Relations Commission and the Urban League has benefitted

thousands of people, including those who received the 1,000 Christmas dinners he has provided annually to the poor for the past five decades.

He is dedicated to the causes of civil rights and human rights. I saw his devotion first hand in our work together to initiate a program which used Israeli institutions to train South African leaders of the anti-apartheid movement.

This listing is only a sample of the good works of the Gorens and so it is with enormous pride that I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Dorothy and Ozzie Goren and their family, and in recognizing their extraordinary spirit of charity and compassion.

DON CAMPBELL, DIRECTOR OF
NASA GLENN RESEARCH CENTER,
NAMED LABORATORY DIRECTOR
OF THE YEAR

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 1999

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call the attention of my colleagues to recognize the NASA Glenn Research Center Director Donald J. Campbell who has been named the 1998 Laboratory Director of the Year by the Federal Laboratory Consortium (FLC) for Technology Transfer.

The award, presented annually, honors federal laboratory directors who have made exemplary contributions to the overall enhancement of technology transfer for economic development.

Mr. Campbell was selected to receive the award in recognition of his successful efforts to broaden the commercialization of Glenn's technologies. In the last five years, at least 20 new products have been created due to Glenn-developed technologies.

Under Mr. Campbell's leadership, the newly created Garrett Morgan Commercialization Initiative helps to increase the competitiveness of disadvantaged and small businesses in Ohio and the Great Lakes region through the use of NASA technologies.

The Glennan Microsystems Initiative is another highly successful program which was launched under Mr. Campbell's direction. The Glennan Initiative, a public private partnership between NASA Glenn Research Center and Case Western Reserve University, will enable companies to capture significant market share in the area of miniaturized sensors and actuators.

In addition, the Lewis Incubator for Technology was established to help entrepreneurs and start-up companies gain financial and marketing assistance as they commercialize NASA-developed technologies.

Mr. Campbell also has been instrumental in providing a hands-on educational experience to African-American and Hispanic students each year through the Science, Engineering, Mathematics and Aerospace Academy (SEMAA). The program, a collaborative effort between Glenn and Cuyahoga Community College, in Cleveland, Ohio, has proven to be extremely successful. Since its inception, SEMAA has been replicated twice, with plans for seven additional sites in major cities.

Mr. Campbell's leadership and personal commitment to work with industry and our

community is exemplified in the highly successful programs described. I am happy to be able to recognize his contributions today. He has been a role model throughout his career. He is the first African American to win the FLC Director of the Year.

More than 600 of the largest federal government research laboratories and centers, representing 16 federal departments and agencies, are presently members of the FLC. The mission of the FLC is to promote and facilitate the rapid movement of federal laboratory research results and technologies into the mainstream of the U.S. economy.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for allowing me the opportunity to share this success story with my colleagues. Once again I commend the efforts and dedication of Mr. Campbell and the entire staff at NASA Glenn Research Center for a job well done.

THOSE WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES IN SERVICE OF OTHERS

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 1999

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, on Sunday, April 18, David McCall, Penny McCall and Yvette Pierpaoli died in a car accident while on their way to assist the refugees in Northern Albania. David and Penny McCall were on assignment for Refugees International. Ms. Pierpaoli was their Albanian driver. I insert into the RECORD a press release from Refugees International detailing their mission.

Having traveled the same road myself just weeks ago, I know how dangerous it can be. The road—the only route between Tirana and Kukes—is crowded and crumbling.

David, Penny and Yvette gave their lives to serve others and bring some desperately needed relief to the displaced Kosovar Albanians. Their death should serve as a stark reminder of the daily risks faced by aid workers and the heroic efforts of all those risking their lives to help the world's needy.

My sympathy goes out to the families of the McCalls and Ms. Pierpaoli.

REFUGEES INTERNATIONAL—APRIL 19, 1999

It is with deep pain that we must confirm the deaths of David B. McCall, his wife Penny McCall and Yvette Pierpaoli in a car accident Sunday on the road heading towards Kukes, Albania. Their Albanian driver was also killed. David and Penny were Board Members of Refugees International, and Yvette was RI's European Representative. The three were in Albania on a humanitarian assessment mission. They were heading from Tirana, the capital, to Kukes, the primary reception point for Kosovar refugees, when their car apparently slid off the mountain road in bad weather.

David, Penny, and Yvette gave their lives for refugees they never met, but for whom they cared deeply. Refugees International is an advocacy organization which seeks to identify failures or gaps in the refugee protection and assistance system and then presses for corrective action. David, Penny and Yvette had made numerous such missions in the past, including a humanitarian assessment mission to Albania last June. This time, a part of their mission was to explore the possibility of providing region-wide help through radio broadcasts to refugees

seeking to locate missing family members. The widespread separation of families is a problem with profound human consequences, and David, Penny, and Yvette wanted it solved as quickly as possible. It was not the first time these three took matters into their own hands for refugees around the world. David, Penny, and Yvette personally brought water pumps, sought to improve the system for clearing land mines and provided basic assistance for refugees in Thailand, Cambodia, and numerous countries in Africa. Their humanity was deep, abiding and selfless, and inspired us all. We will miss them terribly.

IN CELEBRATION OF TUFTONIA DAY

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 1999

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Tufts University in Medford, MA, in honor of the more than 80,000 alumni who will turn their attention today to their alma mater in celebration of the university's 15th annual Tuftonia Day.

This special day marks the anniversary of Tufts University, the second oldest college in the Boston area. Tuftonia celebrates the day in 1852 when Massachusetts Gov. George Boutwell signed Tufts' charter. The celebration was established in 1985 as an opportunity for alumni to celebrate their thoughts of the institution and reminisce with old friends about the bonds made at the university. The gathering provides an opportunity for those connected with the school to celebrate the many achievements of the institution.

For these reasons, the focus of Tuftonia is once again, TuftServe, which centers on the school's volunteer alumni in community service. The alumni of the institution have logged over 350,000 hours of volunteer service ranging from a wide array of endeavors. The intent of the celebration is to allow the opportunity for current students, alumni, professors, administrators, and parents to join in a gathering commemorating the achievements of the college community.

Tufts University enrolls approximately 8,500 students representing all 50 states and 90 countries around the world. The campus community extends from Medford, Boston, and Grafton, MA, to the campus abroad in Talloires, France. The diverse student body and vast cultural experiences it reflects further instills Tufts' reputation as a formidable institution of higher education. Tufts has a reputation of excellence in academic achievement, and its commitment to volunteerism and contribution to the community serve as an integral part of the impressive reputation.

Tufts University should be applauded for instilling in its students, both past and present, the importance of voluntarism. Their contributions to the community on all levels should serve as an inspiration to us all. I commend the students, alumni and faculty of Tufts University for their hard work and commitment to the community.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN M. ELLIS

HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 1999

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding citizen, Mr. John M. Ellis, of Sacramento, CA.

John began his career March 3, 1966 with the U.S. Army at the Sacramento Army Depot and in 1969 transferred to the U.S. Air Force at McClellan AFB, CA. After 33 years of dedicated Federal service he is retiring on April 30, 1999.

John is among the most successful and tireless advocates of Federal managers and his success is widely acknowledged. He has a widespread and richly deserved reputation as a passionately involved caretaker of federal employees. Through his personal efforts, Federal workers in the Sacramento area knew that someone was fighting for their cause. His colleagues recognized his strong leadership and vision and chose him to serve in a long list of distinguished elected positions.

Few people have given to their community with the vision and commitment that John offered to us. He founded the McClellan Defense Task Force (MDTF) in early 1992. The task force organized local community letter writing campaigns and produced almost 400,000 letters supporting McClellan AFB. He personally delivered 127,000 letters to Department of Defense Secretary Les Aspin and 270,000 letters to the BRAC commission during their hearings on Capitol Hill in 1995.

During his career, John became known as an expert on base closures and Federal employees' issues by many local Sacramento radio and television stations. He was a highly sought after panelist for interviews and logged many hours on live and taped, local and national television and even international radio. John always shared his time and knowledge, and made many appearances as a guest speaker at local schools, societies, and government agencies.

He founded the Alliance of Government Managers (AGM) at the beginning of 1987 to protest Federal managers pay, entitlements and benefits. John's organization also included an emphasis on participation and worked to support beneficial legislation and programs, avert destructive administration issues, and promote Federal managers' prosperity and public harmony.

John served as president of Chapter 77, Federal Managers Association for 5 years. During his tenure, he implemented many innovative programs and provided members with an unprecedented level of support. He never hesitated to go to any means necessary when his members needed help. John received a Gold Card (lifetime) membership from the Federal Managers Association for his extraordinary leadership in their organization. The extremely selective nature of this award may not be immediately apparent, but some of us know how few in the history of FMA have earned this level of gratitude.

In 1983, John cofounded the Nor-Cal Federal Coalition (NCFC) and became their first President. The NCFC offered Federal labor unions and management groups an outlet for common interest matters. Through his efforts with the many organizations he founded and

presided over, John consistently championed the rights of Federal employees to make a stronger more united Federal community.

John never settled for anything less than his best. He is a friend, a successful Federal manager, a political activist, a husband, a father, a grandfather, and an inspiration to thousands of people in and around Sacramento, CA.

I would like to offer my heartfelt congratulations to John on his very distinguished career and I wish him and his family my best. Although we will sorely miss his presence, we wish him great success in his future endeavors.

A TRIBUTE TO JULIA A. KRASCHNEWSKI

HON. PAUL RYAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 1999

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a student from my Congressional District in Wisconsin, Julia Kraschnewski. Julia is senior at Burlington High School, and she is the winner of the VFW's 1999 Voice of Democracy scriptwriting contest for the state of Wisconsin. Julia wrote about an experience she had while volunteering at a local nursing home and the effect that experience had upon her life. Julia is no stranger to civic and student activities. She has been involved in 4-H, Student Council, Girls State and Girls Nation, and she is the current Miss Burlington. Julia is truly an example for students all across the country.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to introduce Julia's winning script for the RECORD.

I walked into the nursing home that day, with no idea of what I was getting into. What I would say? How I would act around elderly people? Would I be matched with someone specific? Soon I was paired with a short old man in a plaid shirt. The caretaker told me that this man's name was Roy. I wheeled Roy down to the Activity Room, not sure of what to say. When we got to the room, we both set up our BINGO cards and prepared to play. "B-5" said the lady behind the head table. Roy gave me a shy smile as I helped him place a little red chip on the card.

It has been said, "The purpose of life is life with a purpose." What better purpose is there than to serve—to help someone else, someone who is perhaps less fortunate than us?

The United States of America is committed to safeguarding the rights to "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness," for all of its citizens, regardless of their financial status or physical abilities. While our country has come a long way since the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 1776, some aspects of our society continue to demand our concern.

One such area is the treatment of our elderly. While it was traditional in years past for older relatives to live with younger family members, these days, with both parents working outside the home, this can often become quite impossible. True, the government helps aid the elderly through programs such as our Social Security system and Medicare, but today's alternative for caring for aging members of the family who are unable to care for themselves is a nursing, or retirement home. Such places provide a residence for the elderly and take care of their phys-

ical needs. However, even in a "percent world," our government could not possibly be expected to meet the mental or emotional needs of some of our forgotten elderly. But this does not mean that as individuals, we cannot do something.

"N-45!" the director called in the afternoon's first game. "BINGO!" Roy called, his hand shaking slightly. Roy was excited about the bird ornament he won, recalling that "there were lots of birds like this one" back on his farm. He told me about the "special" birdseed he used to but to attract his wife's favorite orioles. As he stared at the little bird ornament, Roy seemed to be reliving happier days gone by. When we got to his room, my new friend showed me his pictures on the wall, unable to identify everyone in them. He talked about his farm and about his grandchildren. He started crying when he explained that he had not seen them in over a year, and they had forgotten his 100th birthday the month before. While I tried to comfort Roy, I began to understand the loneliness that our forgotten elderly must feel every day.

Our government allows us to excel. It gives us priceless freedoms but we cannot abuse them or fail to cherish them. We must give as well as take. We must serve to strengthen society. "A life without service to others is a life not worth living." These words of President Woodrow Wilson illustrate our country's tradition of helping others. People serve our country in many ways. Some hold political office, some devote themselves to teaching or social work. Some volunteer their time helping others through community service. Some give the ultimate service—placing their lives on the line in times of war.

I can still remember Roy's words to me at the end of our visit. "This is so nice that you young people take the time to come out here and spend with us. We don't have a lot to look forward to here, but we love it when you come and visit us. Thank you." I looked at his eyes, old and tired, yet sparkling with something so alive. At that moment my heart glowed with a certain satisfaction to know that I had helped to make someone's day a little bit brighter. My visit had meant a lot to him. I had taken my first step of service to our society.

In the 3 years, since my 1st visit to Mount Carmel to see Roy, I have come to know Alex, Sadie, and Henry. I have shared stories, and pushed wheelchairs and I cherish every moment in this experience.

Andrew Carnegie once said, "All good things start out small." As Americans, we must challenge ourselves to be the best we can. In our "one nation under God," we must do unto others. On the little league sidelines, in soup kitchens, in nursing home BINGO rooms, with our monetary donations to worthy causes, with our well informed votes, and with our lives on the battlefield, if need be, from sea to shining sea we must unite in our commitment to "service to America."

TRIBUTE TO STEVE COURIER ON HIS INDUCTION TO THE UPPER PENINSULA LABOR HALL OF FAME

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 1999

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, since 1993, 11 outstanding labor leaders, individuals who have contributed to organizing, workplace fairness, worker dignity, and the advancement of

the labor movement in northern Michigan, have been honored with induction into the Upper Peninsula Labor Hall of Fame. The Hall of Fame is housed in the Superior Dome on the campus of Northern Michigan University in Marquette.

I have the honor once again this year to participate in this important and inspiring induction ceremony, which pays tribute to the dedicated efforts of Steve Courier of Escanaba on behalf of the labor movement.

A brief look at his resume, Mr. Speaker, reveals an individual who had dedicated himself to community service. Not only has Steve demonstrated his commitment to the labor movement, but he has served his friends, neighbors and community in elective office and in social and professional organizations.

Here's just a glimpse, an index, a catalogue listing, of the many groups that have benefited from Steve's many hours of service.

The son of a pipefitter in Plumbers & Pipefitters Local 506, Steve served his own apprenticeship and went on to become the youngest elected business manager in the history of the Michigan Pipe Trades Council. He is now Third Vice President of the Michigan State Pipe Trades, and serves on the Board of Trustees for the Upper Peninsula Plumbers and Pipefitters Fringe Benefits Funds. Steve also serves as a member of the executive board of the Upper Peninsula Construction Labor Management Council.

Steve served on the Delta County Board of Commissioners, has been active in his local Masons lodge, served with the Escanaba Community Foundation, Elks Lodge 354, and the fund-raising committee of Escanaba's Bonifas Arts Center.

By his lifelong commitment in support of a wide variety of activities, Steve has convincingly demonstrated how strongly the labor movement is tied to the general well-being of the entire community. He has truly earned his place of honor with other labor leaders in our region.

I look forward each year to the opportunity to gather with friends and associates in northern Michigan to praise these men and women, people like Steve Courier, who have dedicated themselves to doing great work as an ordinary, everyday task. I ask my colleagues in the House to join me in praising these remarkable efforts.

HONORING THE 9TH ANNUAL
WILLIE VELASQUEZ HISPANIC
EXCELLENCE AWARD

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 1999

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 9th Annual Willie Velasquez Hispanic Excellence Award. This Award is designed to honor the Foremost Distinguished Hispanic Citizen in the arts, education, business, public and community service realm within Houston.

For nine years, the National Hispanic Scholarship Fund, the Tejano Center for Community Concerns, and KTMD-TV Telemundo 48 have sponsored this Gala event that is designed not only to award outstanding Hispanic citizens but to raise money to benefit Hispanic edu-

cation. Recipients of the award are citizens who demonstrate extraordinary community service, particularly in the areas of education of the Hispanic community.

It is appropriate that the award is named after Willie Velasquez. Willie was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom for his contributions to democracy. He spent his life ensuring that the Democratic voice of Hispanics would be heard, and he envisioned a society that would be empowered to change the world around them.

The proceeds of the event benefit the Tejano Center and the National Hispanic Scholarship Fund. These organizations work to ensure that the growing needs of the community are met. They contribute scholarship funds to improve the educational opportunities for our children. They also provide neighborhood centers which provide a wealth of programs that not only benefit our children's social opportunities but works to ensure them a healthy and safe future.

I would also like to commend Marcelo Marini of Telemundo Channel 48 for organizing the yearly event. Without his hard work and perseverance neither this award, not the scholarship would be available. Therefore, Mr. Speaker I would like to ask all the Members of the House to honor the Willie Velasquez Award and the vital role that it plays in the community.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 1256 THE
SAVINGS AND INVESTMENT RELIEF
ACT OF 1999

HON. VITO FOSSELLA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 1999

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce that together with the Vice Chair of the Democratic Caucus, Mr. MENENDEZ of New Jersey, I have introduced H.R. 1256, the Savings and Investment Relief Act of 1999. This legislation is designed to address the growing problem of excess Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) transaction fee collections. H.R. 1256 would cap SEC fees which are imposed on stock transactions at more reasonable levels than are currently being collected, thereby saving investors approximately \$2 billion over the next seven years. At the same time, the legislation would provide a flexible funding mechanism that would ensure the SEC's budget needs are always met.

The SEC collects various "user fees" imposed by the securities laws in order to recover the government's costs of running the SEC, including registration fees on stock offerings and transaction fees on stock trades. Over time, these fees had grown to significantly exceed the SEC's budget. In fiscal year 1996, for example, total SEC fee collections were more than two and one-half times the SEC's budget.

Under the leadership of the Chairman of the Commerce Committee, Mr. BLILEY, and the Chairman of the Commerce Subcommittee on Finance and Hazardous Materials, Mr. OXLEY, Congress significantly restructured the SEC fee structure in 1996, as part of the National Securities Markets Improvement Act of 1996 (NSMIA). NSMIA's fee provisions were in-

tended to reduce total SEC fee collections over time. Transaction fees were explicitly designed to recoup the costs of the SEC's able supervision and regulation of the securities markets and securities professionals—indeed, they were intended to be user fees, not general taxes. Unfortunately, actual SEC collections grew to over \$990 million in FY97—over three times the SEC's budget of \$305 million.

This situation prompted one of our most respected former colleagues, then-House Rules Committee Chairman Jerry Solomon, to introduce a bill last year with Mr. MENENDEZ, H.R. 4213, which sought to place an annual cap on transaction fees.

H.R. 4213 gained 62 cosponsors from both sides of the aisle, and was endorsed by the Security Traders Association, the Chicago Stock Exchange, the Pacific Stock Exchange, the New York Stock Exchange Specialists Association, the NASD, the Electronic Traders Association, and the Profit Sharing/401(k) Council of America. It was also endorsed by Americans for Tax Reform, the National Taxpayers Union, Citizens for a Sound Economy, and numerous state-level pro-taxpayer groups, as well as the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the National Federation of Independent Businesses. The Chairman of the Ways & Means Committee, BILL ARCHER, was also a strong supporter of the bill, and expressed the Committee's view that transaction "fees" were really taxes because they greatly exceeded the SEC's regulatory costs.

A revised version of H.R. 4213 was drafted to avoid the PAYGO scoring problems which would have otherwise arisen from a reduction in transaction fees deposited as general revenues. By letter dated September 24, 1998, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) scored the revised legislation as revenue neutral.

Since last year, the situation has only worsened. In FY98, SEC fee collections ballooned to a staggering \$1.78 billion—five and one-half times the SEC's \$322 million budget. Quite frankly, Mr. Speaker, this situation is absurd and unfair. These "fees" have undeniably become a backdoor tax of over \$1 billion on all American investors and businesses raising capital.

Transaction fees are paid by all hardworking investors in my home district and across America. This tax directly affects individual investors, and impacts those large number of Americans who own stock indirectly, such as mutual fund investors and pension plan beneficiaries. It also has a particularly severe impact on the many NASDAQ market makers and exchange specialists who live in my district. These market professionals must frequently put their own capital at risk to buy and sell as principals in order to fulfill their legal obligation to maintain orderly markets. Excess transaction fees drain capital and liquidity from the markets—which disparately impacts the smaller, start-up companies that are creating new jobs and fueling economic growth.

Mr. Speaker, there are a number of ways to achieve the desired result of reducing transaction fees, including a cap and reducing the rate at which fees are levied. While H.R. 1256 embodies the cap approach, I want to stress that I would also endorse a rate cut as well. My intent in introducing this legislation is to continue to advance the debate on this issue, and to provide much-needed (and long overdue) relief to American investors.

I am gratified that Securities and Exchange Commission Chairman Levitt has gone on

record in support of fee relief. In a recent hearing in the Senate Banking Securities Subcommittee, he testified that "[t]he SEC shares the Subcommittee's concern that fee collections are currently well in excess of initial projections." Chairman Levitt stated that he is willing to work with Congress to address this issue, and indicated that a flexible cap on fees is the most workable solution. I commend Chairman Levitt for these comments and for his continued leadership on issues of great importance to American investors.

Mr. Speaker, I pledge to work hard to ensure that the goal of providing investors with relief from these excessive fees is accomplished in the 106th Congress. I look forward to working in a bipartisan fashion to achieve this result, and I urge my colleagues to co-sponsor H.R. 1256.

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF WILEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 1999

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, as the former North Carolina Superintendent of Schools and as the Second District's Congressman, I rise today to call the attention of the Congress to the centennial anniversary of Wiley Elementary School in Raleigh, North Carolina.

Last year, Wiley Elementary School was preparing to celebrate its 75th Anniversary when student researchers discovered an earlier Wiley School, making the school 100 years old this year. Wiley Principal Cecilia Rawlins describes the institution and this occasion best by saying, "Wiley School has a rich history. There are so many people in this community who played a part in our school, and we need to celebrate our history. There are many people who were a part of the school in the past. We want to celebrate the past so we can continue on that tradition toward the future." I am pleased to say that two members of my staff, Zeke Creech and Mark Hilpert, attended Wiley.

Over the past year, the students, parents, teachers, and the community have been preparing for this celebration. Students have researched the "old" Wiley and "new" Wiley, reviewed old PTA scrapbooks, and visited the state Archives and History division. Some students who were graduating to junior high school even devoted part of their summer working on a video and "memory book" to record the history of Wiley. As a part of this effort, students have recorded Wiley's rich history, architecture and alumni memories.

The current school was built in 1923 by C.V. York Construction Co. Its beautiful three story Jacobean Revival brick building was designed by architect Gadsen Sayre. The school was named for attorney, author, and educator Calvin H. Wiley, who also served as one of my predecessors as the first North Carolina Superintendent of Public Instruction, then referred to as Common Schools, from 1852 to 1865.

Today, Wiley is an "International Magnet" Elementary School and is one of the oldest continuously operating schools in North Caro-

lina. As it has for so long, Wiley serves as a model for all our public schools in America to follow now and in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the long history of educational achievement and parental and community involvement at Wiley Elementary School and join students, teachers, alumni, and the community in this centennial celebration.

I encourage my colleagues to join me in this celebration and to read the following articles from the News and Observer in Raleigh, North Carolina making Wiley's 100th anniversary.

[From the Raleigh News and Observer, Aug. 26, 1998]

TENACIOUS YOUTHS DETAIL SCHOOL'S PAST

(By Treva Jones)

RALEIGH—Wiley Elementary School was preparing to celebrate its 75th anniversary when planners realized they were off the mark.

Actually, there was an earlier Wiley School in downtown Raleigh—a fact discovered by student researchers—meaning the institution will be 100 years old next spring.

The school is collecting stories and information about Wiley from former students who learned their ABCs, and more, in the big red brick school house on St. Mary's Street. "Wiley School has a rich history," Principal Cecilia Rawlins said. "There are many people in this community that played a part in our school, and we need to celebrate our history. There are many people who were a part of the school in the past. We want to celebrate the past so we can continue on that tradition toward the future."

The official celebration will be in April. Planning is under way for a school pageant as well as a get-together for all alumni and friends.

"We want to make it a fund—but educational—experience," Rawlins said.

Becky Leousis, a Wiley video and photography teacher, got a small grant last year and used it to buy a piece of equipment that adds titles and credits to videotape. One of her video classes, launched specifically to look into Wiley history, interviewed and videotaped Raleigh residents who attended Wiley in its early years.

Severally Wiley students spent some of their summer break finishing the tape. Among them were Tom Martin, Chelsea Nicolas and Sam Shaber, all of whom started sixth grade in other schools this month. The three said they were so interested in digging up Wiley history that they wanted to finish what their class has started.

"It's one of the [city's] older schools. It has wonderful architecture. It's just real interesting," Tom said.

Students combed old school PTA scrapbooks and took a field trip to the state Archives and History division to look up pictures. They researched "old" Wiley, "new" Wiley, the school architect and Calvin Wiley, for whom it was named. They recorded their findings in a scrapbook and the video, which will be shown during the celebratory activities next spring.

The current school was built in 1923 by C.V. York Construction Co., by authority of the Raleigh Township School Committee. The architect, Gadsen Sayre, designed the three-story Jacobean Revival brick building, one of several Raleigh schools he designed during the 1920s.

It was named for Calvin H. Wiley, a lawyer, author, educator and the first state superintendent of public instruction—his actual title was State Superintendent of Common Schools—from 1852 to 1865. The first Wiley school was a two-story building at West Morgan and South West streets.

As part of a school course this fall, students will produce a booklet about Wiley history and architecture and alumni memories.

Anne Bullard, co-chairman of the Wiley Anniversary Committee, appealed to anyone connected with Wiley to write his or her recollection of an event that happened there or write about their most vivid memory of Wiley and send it to the school. Accounts should be limited to 250 to 500 words, Bullard said, and they should be sent before Christmas.

"We do hope to collect quite a lot of them," she said. The committee also is seeking photographs of people who had a connection to Wiley and photos of the building.

Former students, teachers and parents with memories of and memorabilia from Wiley school are asked to call the school office at 857-7723; to write to Anne Bullard, 208 Forest Road, Raleigh, N.C. 27605; or send e-mail to ajbullard@mindspring.com

[From the Raleigh News and Observer, Feb. 25, 1999]

THOSE OLD BRICK WALLS ARE ABOUT TO TALK

(By Jim Jenkins)

Raleigh's Wiley Elementary School looks every inch the sturdy old schoolhouse—the steep steps headed up from St. Mary's Street, the deep-red edifice, the tall doors. It's easy to imagine the generations of kids from Cameron Park, Boylan Heights and surrounding neighborhoods tripping up the steps, parents in tow, for the first day—75 years of first days, in fact, at the present location, another 25 before that at other locales.

Yes, it adds up to a century, which means a centennial celebration is in order, and in fact, in progress now. They're doing it up right at Wiley, which is Raleigh's second-oldest continuously operating school. (Washington Elementary is the oldest.) Students have produced a documentary film on the place, a "memory book" is off to the publisher and a celebratory pageant is slated for April 23. The current generation of students at what is now an "international magnet" elementary school, along with alums, teachers and revered former principal Pearle Poole, will play roles in tracing its history.

And Wiley wants you alums out yonder, wherever yonder might be, to know that you are cordially invited to join the festivities at 7 p.m. on that day. Finding as many of the alumni as possible remains, really, the only string yet to be tied. Those who have been found already have enriched the memory book considerably, and there is no shortage of what schools call "distinguished" alums on Wiley's old rolls, among them a former editor of the Wall Street Journal, the late Vermont Royster, and still-active local pillars like attorneys Bill Joslin and Robert McMillan.

If few of us living and breathing types make it to a personal centennial, it's certainly true that not many schools light 100 candles either. What with the need to "upgrade" for the computer age, or to replace structures that wear and fray, or to honor some illustrious personage from a more modern era with the naming of a school, this sort of thing just doesn't happen that often.

(Wiley, in fact, has through the years survived a push by some officials to sell it or to demolish it and replace it. Among those who argued for saving it was former Mayor Smedes York, whose father, Raleigh developer Willie York, carried water to construction workers when the present school was being built in the early '20s.)

If the vivid memories of Wiley's legions of long ago are any indication, we might be better off preserving the old structures whenever possible and thus nurturing the loyalties of those who learned therein. For their recollections are part of a city's heritage.

Consider Frank Jeter Jr.'s offering for the memory book; he (still a Raleigh resident) was a 1st grade student in the fall of 1924. "Wiley School," he wrote, "was actually one of several public works improvements made in the early 1920s. For those of us who lived on Forest Road, this was the time when they paved the red clay street with blacktop . . . and also installed the sidewalk that made it possible for us to build speedy cares, using old lawn mower wheels, that could race down the hill in the 300 block."

Or the recollections of Nancy Hobbs Banks of Raleigh, who enrolled in Wiley in 1942, when her father, Dr. A.J. Hobbs, was appointed pastor of Edenton Street Methodist Church: ". . . Most of us had brothers or other relatives in the services. Ration books were distributed to families who waited in long lines in the gym. We had occasional air raid drills and were marched to the auditorium where we squatted between the rows of seats until the 'all clear' sounded."

Mrs. Banks has another lasting memory of the place; she met her husband, Myron, there.

Alum Melissa Harris, like many of her classmates from the early 1970s, recalls the controversy that erupted when in 1972 Principal Ben Tench encouraged students to build "Wiley City" on the back yard of the school. "We (the students) literally built ourselves a small city—complete with a courthouse, and a jail and an elected mayor."

Neighborhood protests led to its demolition, Harris recalled, "but no before realizing the diversity of tastes and the power of unified voices." Harris must have learned even more; she is an associate professor of architecture at the University of Michigan.

Wiley today is run by a dynamo, Principal Cecilia Rawlins, and its international magnet status invigorates the school with five languages taught, a "country of the month," and a focus on the different cultures of the world in the teaching of many subjects. If the grand old structure is a monument to memory for some, it is as well a monument to the robust health of public education when it is nurtured and sustained by neighborhoods, by involved parents, by dedicated teachers and by enthusiastic administrators. Wiley is a healthy 100. The candles, if you please.

H. CON. RES. 7

HON. BILL MCCOLLUM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 1999

Mr. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, home ownership plays a vital role in creating stable, vibrant communities in our country. As a firm supporter of home ownership and the strong communities that home ownership fosters, I would like to encourage all my colleagues to join with me, Congresswoman ROUKEMA, and all other original cosponsors of H. Con. Res. 7 to ensure that mortgage interest and property tax deductions remain in our tax code.

The beauty of the mortgage interest deduction is multi-faceted. Unlike the reams of forms and documentation required to qualify for many other deductions, the mortgage interest tax deduction is simple, widely understood and used by taxpayers. It benefits hard-working, middle class Americans. Forty-two percent of households that claimed the mortgage interest deduction in 1995 reported incomes below \$50,000, and many of those benefiting from

the mortgage interest deduction are minorities and first time home owners.

Taxing the interest on the most significant purchase that most individuals will make in their lives sends the wrong message to potential home buyers. The mortgage interest deduction helps individuals who are willing to make a stake in their communities and take on the responsibility of home ownership. We should encourage home ownership and the commitment to our communities that home ownership represents. H. Con. Res. 7 clearly does so by assuring Americans that Congress will continue to protect the mortgage interest deduction.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FEDERAL EMPLOYEE FLEXIBILITY ACT OF 1999

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 1999

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to reintroduce the Federal Employee Flexibility Act of 1999. This bill will extend to federal employees the same commuting benefits that have been given to private sector employees under the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st century (TEA-21). This is a very important bill which could have a significant impact in helping the Washington metropolitan region and a great many others with federal employees come into attainment with Environmental Protection Agency air quality standards. For this reason, I am introducing this bill in time for Earth Day. Senators JOHN CHAFEE and DANIEL PATRICK MOYNIHAN also recognize the potential environmental benefits of this bill, and they are reintroducing companion legislation in the Senate today.

Prior to the enactment of TEA-21, the federal tax code contained an anomaly that in practice discouraged employers from using mass transportation or other means other than driving. Previously, employers could provide tax-free up to \$65 per month (\$100 by 2002) in transit benefits in lieu of taxable salary. However, if any employee within a company elected to take the salary instead of the transit benefit, the transit passes for all the other employees would lose their tax-free status. This made employers wary of offering any transit benefits.

Likewise, employers were allowed to offer tax-free parking up to a value of \$170 per employee in lieu of some other taxable benefit, such as salary. However, if any employee chose to receive the taxable benefit rather than parking privileges, the parking of all employees of the company became taxable. The result was that employers were encouraged to grant all employees tax-free parking and employees were given no choice as to "cashing out" the benefit and commuting by other means such as walking or car pooling.

TEA-21 included language that eliminated this all-or-nothing approach for the private sector. However, federal employees were inadvertently left out of this more flexible approach. Federal compensation law must be modified to specifically authorize federal employees to have the option of receiving transit, parking, or additional salary. The bill that I introduce today provides this specific authorization.

The absence of a specific authorization has had a greater negative impact on the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area than on other cities and regions. As the federal city, Washington, D.C. has a far greater percentage of federal workers than other cities. In addition, the region has the second worst traffic congestion in the United States, behind the Los Angeles area. I believe my bill will go a long way toward relieving some of that unbearable congestion if federal employees who live in Maryland, Virginia, and outlying areas of the District are given incentives to commute into downtown Washington by means other than driving every day.

Since coming to Congress, I have worked hard to ensure that federal agencies and their accompanying jobs remain in the District. Last year, I signed a Federal Facilities Recruitment and Retention Pledge for Washington D.C. and its Inner Suburbs to "actively work to locate Washington Metro area federal facilities within 1/2 mile of a Metrorail station" and to "give preference in federal facility location decisions to sites first within the Nation's Capital . . ." This is a critical goal, and I work hard to carry out this pledge. However, we do not have much trouble getting federal agencies to remain in the District, and indeed have insufficient land for many federal facilities that would prefer to be here. Our greatest unmet challenges are the air quality and the congestion that pose immediate and dangerous threats to the quality of life, the growth, and the economy of this region. This bill is an important step toward moving us in the quest to overcome this challenge. I urge the support of Members as well to eliminate unintentional discrimination in benefits for federal employees when compared to those this body has already granted private sector employees.

TRIBUTE TO JACK POWELL ON HIS INDUCTION TO THE UPPER PENINSULA LABOR HALL OF FAME

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 1999

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, since 1993 eleven outstanding labor leaders, individuals who have contributed to organizing, workplace fairness, worker dignity, and the advancement of the labor movement in northern Michigan, have been honored with induction into the Upper Peninsula Labor Hall of Fame. The Hall of Fame is housed in the Superior Dome on the campus of Northern Michigan University in Marquette.

I have the honor once again this year to participate in this important and inspiring induction ceremony, which pays tribute to the dedicated efforts of the late Jack Powell of Escanaba on behalf of the labor movement.

Jack Powell had the kind of working career that could be the outline for an adventure novel. He was wildcat oil drilling at 13. Wildcatting, Mr. Speaker, is the risky venture of drilling a well outside a known field. It's a fitting start for life that included pioneering labor efforts in northern Michigan.

After some years as a painter and wallpaper hanger in Chicago, Mr. Powell came to the

Upper Peninsula of Michigan in the late 1930s, to find work, and he found it in the iron mines. In 1944 he was the first man to be assigned as an International Representative of the United Steelworkers of America on the Marquette Iron Range.

Jack was known as an outstanding leader and a tough negotiator, and he made clear he had joined the labor movement to improve working conditions in the mines. He was active in organizing and negotiating for all USWA locals in the Upper Peninsula, but in the history of the Northern Michigan labor movement, Jack Powell may be best known to many for providing strong leadership and keeping his workers united during the 104 days of the 1946 Iron Mining Strike.

In a long career that ran until his retirement in 1965, Jack was a member of the Michigan AFL executive board, a legislative representative for the United Steelworkers of America, and he was a good friend of August Scholle, better known as Gus, the Michigan AFL president at the time. A self-educated man, Jack was also a close friend of former NMU President Edgar Harden.

Married to Marie Bracco of Ishpeming, Jack had two stepdaughters, one step-granddaughter, and three step-great-grandchildren.

I look forward each year to the opportunity to gather with friends and associates in northern Michigan to praise these men and women, people like Jack Powell, who have dedicated themselves to doing great work as an ordinary, everyday task. I ask my colleagues in the House to join me in praising these remarkable efforts.

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND DOC FRADY

HON. BOB BARR

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 1999

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great man who has set an example for all of us by the way he has lived his life. That man is Reverend Marvin "Doc" Frady, pastor of Clarkdale Baptist Church in the Seventh Congressional District, who, on April 28, 1999, celebrates his 60th birthday.

Thirty years ago, Doc Frady had a successful practice as a chiropractor, which he built up over years of hard work. However, when he was called by God to leave that lucrative practice and enter the ministry, he didn't hesitate for a moment. Since then, he has served as pastor to four different churches, and ministered to many thousands of men, women, and children.

Fortunately for all who live in the community Doc serves, he doesn't let his efforts to help others stop at the church door. He has organized numerous religious events, actively involved himself in public policy issues, and spent more hours in hospital rooms, weddings, and memorial services than most people who do those things for a profession. Throughout it all, he still found time to serve for 10 years on the board of Cumberland Christian Academy, and for nine years as Chaplain of the Cobb County Sheriff's Department.

Doc Frady's life has been a model of public service from which we can all learn. In everything he does, Doc has made helping himself a last priority, and devoted his life to serving God and others. Doc deserves the thanks of a grateful community for all he has done to make Cobb County one of the best places to live in America. Everyone who knows, or who has had their lives touched by Doc Frady's love and commitment, joins in wishing him a very, very happy birthday.

TRIBUTE TO EL CHICANO NEWSPAPER

HON. GEORGE E. BROWN, JR.

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 1999

Mr. BROWN of California. Mr. Speaker, it is with a great sense of pride that I rise today to pay tribute to El Chicano Newspaper on the occasion of its 30th anniversary.

El Chicano Newspaper, the first Chicano publication to serve the Inland Empire, was first published in 1968 on a monthly basis under the auspices of the University of California, Riverside. In 1969, through dedication and perseverance of local pioneers in the field of journalism, El Chicano Newspaper became independent and locally owned with Marta Macias Brown as its editor and her sister, Gloria Macias Harrison as its publisher, and William B. Harrison as its business manager.

Within six months of independent ownership, the newspaper went from a monthly to a bimonthly, then to a weekly publication, and has made journalism history as the longest-publishing Chicano owned publication in the State of California. El Chicano Newspaper was originally staffed by six volunteers working from their homes. Today, the newspaper has a 4,000 square foot home office located in the San Bernardino Hospitality Lane Business District. Since its launch in 1968, El Chicano Newspaper has grown to become a self sustaining, minority owned business with a current paid staff of more than 20 using the state of the art computer technology for all its production.

On June 1, 1987, a sister corporation was formed with other minority investors to acquire two community newspapers serving the cities of Colton and Rialto. This acquisition created the second group of newspapers in the state owned by Hispanic investors. In 1998 the Harrisons further expanded their newspaper holdings to include the Victorville Legal Reporter and the Sun Newspaper group, seven weekly newspapers serving North County San Diego. This expansion makes a total of eleven newspapers owned by the Harrisons who started their newspaper career with El Chicano Newspaper in 1969.

Throughout its 30 years of service to the Inland Empire, El Chicano Newspaper has been a vital link in the Chicano community, serving as a cohesive factor in keeping the community aware of current issues and encouraging a high level of community interest and involvement in local events. Therefore, El Chicano Newspapers has demonstrated its commitment to serving the fastest-growing segment of the population of the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating El Chicano Newspaper on its 30 years of service. At home in my district in California, we are proud of the contributions El Chicano Newspaper is making to the community. This publication is representative of the emerging economic force of the Chicano community of California.

BUSINESS WOMEN'S NETWORK WOW! FACTS LAUNCH

HON. JENNIFER DUNN

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 1999

Ms. DUNN. Mr. Speaker, congratulations to the Business Women's Network (BWN) and to all of you, the thousands of women committed to fostering leadership, and to men who are champions of the positive change reported in Business Women's WOW! Facts. WOW! Facts is a one-of-a-kind resource database on women in business designed to highlight facts on women—from their access to capital to their access to child care. Below are a few examples of the impressive measurements of women's success found in the Business Women's WOW! Facts (which can be found on the Internet at www.BWNI.com):

Women are starting businesses at twice the rate of men, creating 8.5 million small businesses in this country that generate nearly \$3 trillion in revenue. New companies headed by women stay in business longer than the average U.S. company.

Women make the investment decisions in 32 percent of households where investments are made. Women are a critical part of investment decisionmaking in another 51 percent of households. In saving and investing for their families, women cite the 401(k) as their primary investment vehicle. Women make up of 47 percent of all stock owners.

Ninety-nine percent of women in the U.S. will work for pay at some point in their lives. While in 1960, 30 percent of mothers worked, 70 percent of all mothers are now employed outside of the home.

With estimates that women make up 48 percent of all Internet users, women are the fastest growing segment on-line. In fact, by the year 2000 women will make up 50 percent of the total on-line audience and 52 percent by the year 2002.

Women are the fastest growing part of future projections for electronic commerce—one of the hottest trends in the nation and the globe. Edie Fraser of BWN tells me that soon we will have more than 1.2 million women-owned businesses on the Internet for the purpose of electronic commerce.

I want to recognize Working Woman Magazine for their partnership with BWN on many efforts, including a salute to the 500 top Working Women. Thank you to the Small Business Administration, the National Association of Women Business Owners, National Foundation of Women Business Owners and others for generating data which BWN has captured for this project. This is an impressive effort that will connect the world with the growing influence and accomplishments of women.

INTRODUCTION OF THE
ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ACT**HON. JOHN LEWIS**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 1999

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to introduce the Environmental Justice Act. This legislation would help address the concerns of poor and minority communities throughout our nation who may be disproportionately exposed to incinerators, toxic waste dumps, and other forms of pollution.

As many of you know, back in 1992, then Senator AL GORE and I introduced the first Environmental Justice Act. Even back then, we

knew about the dangers of toxics and other forms of pollution. We heard the stories of Love Canal, Cancer Alley and Chicago's Toxic Donut. We knew that poor and minority families, and children in particular, were getting sick. Children were getting cancer. Parents were dying of rare diseases. Something was going on.

The Environmental Justice Act seeks to establish the link between environmental pollution and the communities that were riddled with cancer and other diseases. This legislation also would provide help to these communities. It would restrict the siting of new polluting facilities and provide basic health services to residents.

As I have always said, people have the right to know what is in the air they breathe, the water they drink, the food they eat. We have

the right to know if the chemical plant down the street—or that incinerator around the corner—is poisoning our families. Each and every one of us has that right.

And if that chemical plant, or incinerator, or toxic waste dump is killing our neighbors, our children, our communities—then it is time for the killing to stop. Protecting the health and well-being of our families is a matter of justice. It is a fundamental human right—just like freedom of speech—just like freedom of press—just like the right to vote.

The Environmental Justice Act is an important step toward guaranteeing this right. I am hopeful that my colleagues will lend their support to this legislation and will help ensure that all Americans grow up in, and live in, a healthy environment.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, April 22, 1999 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

APRIL 26

1 p.m.

Aging

To hold hearings to examine the growing assisted living industry, focusing on consumer protections and quality of care in assisted living.

SD-106

APRIL 27

9:30 a.m.

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine medical records privacy issues.

SD-628

Armed Services

To hold hearings on the nomination of Lawrence J. Delaney, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Air Force; and the nomination of Brian E. Sheridan, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.

SR-222

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings on effectiveness of the Office of Motor Carrier and Truck Safety, Department of Transportation.

SR-253

Energy and Natural Resources

To resume hearings on S. 25, to provide Coastal Impact Assistance to State and local governments, to amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act Amendments of 1978, the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, the Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Act, and the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act (commonly referred to as the Pittman-Robertson Act) to establish a fund to meet the outdoor conservation and recreation needs of the American people; S. 532, to provide increased funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund and Urban Parks and Recreation Recovery Programs, to

resume the funding of the State grants program of the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and to provide for the acquisition and development of conservation and recreation facilities and programs in urban areas; S. 446, to provide for the permanent protection of the resources of the United States in the year 2000 and beyond; and S. 819, to provide funding for the National Park System from Outer Continental Shelf revenues.

SD-366

10 a.m.

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe

To hold joint hearings on Belarus.

340, Cannon Building

Finance

To hold hearings to examine revenue raising proposals as contained in the administrations fiscal year 2000 budget.

SD-215

2:15 p.m.

Judiciary

Immigration Subcommittee

To hold hearings on the need for additional border patrol at the northern and southern borders.

SD-226

2:30 p.m.

Armed Services

Emerging Threats and Capabilities Subcommittee

To hold hearings on the threat of international narcotics-trafficking and the role of the Department of Defense in the nation's war on drugs.

SR-222

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings on nonproliferation, arms control and political military issues.

SD-562

3 p.m.

Printing

To hold an organizational meeting.

H-163, Capitol

APRIL 28

9:30 a.m.

Indian Affairs

To hold oversight hearings on Bureau of Indian Affairs capacity and mission.

SR-485

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Business meeting to consider S. 385, to amend the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 to further improve the safety and health of working environments; the nomination of Joseph Bordogna, of Pennsylvania, to be Deputy Director of the National Science Foundation; the nomination of Kenneth M. Bresnahan, of Virginia, to be Chief Financial Officer, Department of Labor; the nomination of Lorraine Pratte Lewis, of the District of Columbia, to be Inspector General, Department of Education; the nomination of Arthur J. Naparstek, of Ohio, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for National and Community Service; the nomination of Ruth Y. Tamura, of Hawaii, to be a Member of the National Museum Services Board; the nomination of Chang-Lin Tien, of California, to be a Member

of the National Science Board, National Science Foundation; and the nomination of Gary L. Visscher, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission.

SD-628

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Business meeting to markup pending calendar business.

SR-253

Rules and Administration

To hold oversight hearings on the operations of the Architect of the Capitol.

SR-301

Judiciary

To resume hearings on S.J. Res. 14, proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States authorizing Congress to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States.

SD-226

Energy and Natural Resources

Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.

SD-366

10 a.m.

Foreign Relations

Western Hemisphere, Peace Corps, Narcotics and Terrorism Subcommittee

To hold hearings on issues relating to state democracy and the rule of law in the Americas.

SD-562

2 p.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

Forests and Public Land Management Subcommittee

To hold hearings on S. 607, reauthorize and amend the National Geologic Mapping Act of 1992; S. 415, to protect the permanent trust funds of the State of Arizona from erosion due to inflation and modify the basis on which distributions are made from those funds; and S. 416, to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to convey the city of Sisters, Oregon, a certain parcel of land for use in connection with a sewage treatment facility.

SD-366

2:30 p.m.

Governmental Affairs

International Security, Proliferation and Federal Services Subcommittee

To hold hearings on the future of the ABM Treaty.

SD-342

Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings on the nomination of George T. Frampton, Jr., of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Council on Environmental Quality.

SD-406

APRIL 29

9:30 a.m.

Appropriations

Interior Subcommittee

Energy and Natural Resources

National Parks, Historic Preservation, and Recreation Subcommittee

To hold joint oversight hearings to review the report of the Government Accounting Office on the Everglades National Park Restoration Project.

SD-366

<p>Environment and Public Works Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee To hold hearings on project delivery and streamlining of the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century.</p>	<p>9:30 a.m. Indian Affairs To hold oversight hearings on Census 2000, implementation in Indian Country.</p>	<p>10:30 a.m. Governmental Affairs Oversight of Government Management, Restructuring and the District of Columbia Subcommittee To hold hearings on multiple program coordination in early childhood education.</p>
<p>10 a.m. Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions To resume hearings on issues relating to the Elementary Secondary Education Act.</p>	<p>Energy and Natural Resources To resume hearings on S. 25, to provide Coastal Impact Assistance to State and local governments, to amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act Amendments of 1978, the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, the Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Act, and the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act (commonly referred to as the Pittman-Robertson Act) to establish a fund to meet the outdoor conservation and recreation needs of the American people; S. 532, to provide increased funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund and Urban Parks and Recreation Recovery Programs, to resume the funding of the State grants program of the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and to provide for the acquisition and development of conservation and recreation facilities and programs in urban areas; S. 446, to provide for the permanent protection of the resources of the United States in the year 2000 and beyond; and S. 819, to provide funding for the National Park System from outer Continental Shelf revenues.</p>	<p>SD-342</p>
<p>Foreign Relations International Economic Policy, Export and Trade Promotion Subcommittee To hold hearings to examine the impact of international software piracy on the software industry and the American economy.</p>	<p>SR-485</p>	<p>MAY 12 9:30 a.m. Indian Affairs To hold oversight hearings on HUBzones implementation.</p>
<p>Commerce, Science, and Transportation Science, Technology, and Space Subcommittee To hold hearings on the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2000 for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.</p>	<p>SR-253</p>	<p>MAY 19 9:30 a.m. Indian Affairs To hold hearings on S. 614, to provide for regulatory reform in order to encourage investment, business, and economic development with respect to activities conducted on Indian lands; and S. 613, to encourage Indian economic development, to provide for the disclosure of Indian tribal sovereign immunity in contracts involving Indian tribes, and for other purposes.</p>
<p>2 p.m. Foreign Relations Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs Subcommittee To hold hearings to examine political and military developments in India.</p>	<p>SD-562</p>	<p>SR-485</p>
<p>APRIL 30 10 a.m. Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Aging Subcommittee To hold hearings on issues relating to the Older Americans Act.</p>	<p>SD-628</p>	<p>SEPTEMBER 28 9:30 a.m. Veterans' Affairs To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to review the legislative recommendations of the American Legion. 345 Cannon Building</p>
<p>MAY 3</p>	<p>MAY 5</p>	<p>SR-485</p>
<p>3:30 p.m. Governmental Affairs Oversight of Government Management, Restructuring and the District of Columbia Subcommittee To hold hearings on management reform issues in the District of Columbia.</p>	<p>9:30 a.m. Indian Affairs To hold oversight hearings on Tribal Priority Allocations and Contract Support Costs Report.</p>	<p>MAY 6 9:30 a.m. Energy and Natural Resources To hold hearings to examine the results of the December 1998 plebiscite on Puerto Rico.</p>
<p>SD-342</p>	<p>SH-216</p>	